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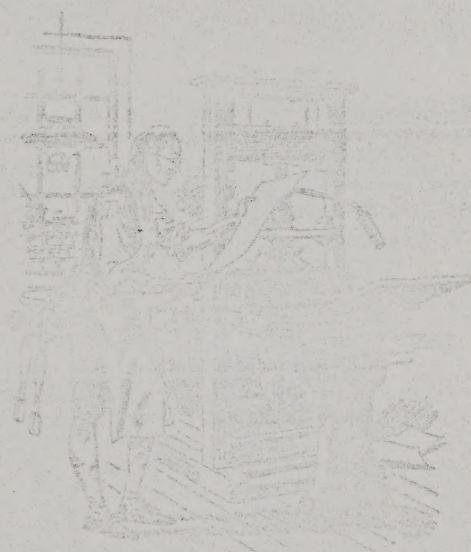


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*The Story of*  
*The Land of Orland*



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A century of facts, legend and folklore of Orland,  
Glenn County, California, and its surrounding fertile  
acres known as "The Land of Orland"

—By—

L. W. WIGMORE  
"Old Timer"





# *The Story of The Land of Orland*

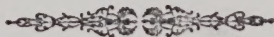
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## DEDICATION

Frank S. Reager, Sr., educator and public spirited citizen, builder of men and communities, son of the first rancher of The Land of Orland, whose life has largely been dedicated to bring to fulfilment the vision of the late Will S. Green to turn the wasting mountain waters onto the the fertile acres of the valley floor so that men and women might find here a home in the American way of life.

Without his constructive criticism and his wealth of facts regarding The Land of Orland, and his deep interest in the effort, this Story of The Land of Orland would have been an impossible task.

Fully realizing the debt we owe him, and desiring to express our deep admiration of him, we humbly dedicate "The Story of The Land of Orland", to Frank S. Reager, Sr., First Citizen of Glenn county.

L. W. Wigmore

# The Land of Ohland The Story of

A century of fact, legend and folklore of Ohland,  
Glenn County, California, and its surrounding fertile  
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<https://archive.org/details/storyoflandoforl00wigm>



## PREFACE

This "Story of The Land of Orland" covering a century of growth of Northern Glenn County, has been compiled in an effort to bring together in one volume, the events, important and trivial, which not only tell of the progress over the years, but make a readable story of Orland and its contributing farm area.

It is a story of the years of struggle to bring to the parched acres of the valley floor, the waters of Stony Creek which had run to waste over the years; a story of a community cooperation in which many men and women had a part; of a great pioneer effort which has been an inspiration to other communities and other people of California.

Published by The Orland Register  
Orland, Glenn Co., California  
December 1, 1955





Orland, a child of the railroad, is a mere infant among the towns and cities of the Sacramento valley. Orland in fact is the youngest town of the farflung County of Colusa, and with the exception of its neighbor to the east, Hamilton City, the youngest town in the present boundaries of Glenn county.

For over a quarter of a century after Mr. Semple and his famous nephew, William Semple Green, laid out the town of Colusa, the first town in the County of Colusa, which sprawled over the floor of the Sacramento valley as far north as Red Bluff, there was no reason for a town on the present site of Orland.

#### Crossroads Make A Town

Towns and cities since the dawn of civilization have come into being largely because they are located on the crossroads of transportation. The site of Orland was another vast acreage of none too fertile soil in the midst of thousands of rich lands on the floor of the valley.

Years before Orland came into being, other towns flourished in the north end of what is now Glenn county; flourished and prospered because they had a reason for their existence; they were located at the crossroads of transportation: Colusa, at the head of certain navigation of the Sacramento river; Red Bluff where roads fanned out to the east and west to reach smaller hill and mountain settlements; Redding, the outpost for the entire "Cascade Wonderland".

Deep in the foothill country to the west of the present site of Orland was the flourishing town of Newville, Glenn county's oldest community. Today the stranger would probably drive through

Newville without ever realizing that once there stood on this site at the crossroads to the south and northwest, a typical Western town; the hub of a vast agricultural area; a town of stores and blacksmith shops; of dance halls and saloons; a town of lodges and churches; Newville, a lusty typical pioneer town taking on much of the flavor of the early California mining town; a town which had its Saturday nights brawls, its quarrels and even a murder or two.

Newville in those early days had every indication of permanency; it was located conveniently to scores of newly created ranches; beside a stream in the midst of oak and madrone.

#### Newville, A Ghost Town

But Newville died a slow death, clinging to a lazy, easy going existence as its wooden buildings with their false California fronts, became more weatherworn year after year; her flourishing trade turning eastward to the newer valley towns until shortly after the turn of the century, Newville joined the galaxy of California ghost towns for the simple reason there was no reason for its further existence.

Out from the flourishing town of Newville as it left the foothill country ran the Newville road, known today by that same name. If one looks at a map of this end of Glenn county, he will see that by drawing a line extending the present Newville road across the present city of Orland, he will run into the road known for the past half century as the Diagonal Road, which led the foothill farmers and settlers to the west of Orland straight to the Sacramento river and the other early valley town, Monroeville, on the river.





### Monroeville Short Lived

But Monroeville's place in the sun was shortlived. Thwarted in its efforts to become the county seat of the farflung Colusa county, Monroeville withered on the vine and was in the sixties and seventies, only a port of embarkment for flatbottom river boats when the waters of the Sacramento were high enough to float such boats as far northward.

In its stead rose the lusty young town of St. John, a few miles to the west of Monroeville, but located as all such early California towns must be located, on the crossroads of transportation.

If Newville might be considered one of the lusty forebears of Orland, then St. John, another ghost town, might well be considered the other. But St. John though lusty by present day standards, was less given to bloodletting and saloon brawls; or at least with less tragic results.

### Road To Northern Mines

St. John, named after one of the early settlers, was located along the road from the foothills to the river; just a few miles northwest of where Stony Creek merges into the Sacramento.

St. John rose to prosperous days when miners irked by the dwindling gold sands of the South mines and the mines of the Yuba, the Feather and the American, trekked northward to the new northern mines about Weaverville and Old Shasta.

Fortunately for St. John, the main valley route to the northern mines over which every pound of provisions, tools and equipment must be carted by wagon train, was up the west side of the Sacramento river. Unloading from river steamers at Colusa, the supplies for the Northern mines were freighted up the west side because only one stream of

any size, Stony Creek, had to be crossed while on the east side there were dozens of streams to cross and, of course, all had to be forded for the day of convenient bridges was far in the future.

St. John was just a good day's journey for the plodding ox teams and mule teams, and became an overnight stop for the travelers to the Northern mines. And so St. John flourished like the green bay leaf as long as Northern mines flourished. St. John became the social and trading center for those more prosaic newcomers who either had their fling at gold hunting or turned naturally to their better known line of work, farming.

### Settle Along Living Water

Up and down the Sacramento, out into the hot dusty plains following the various tributaries of the Sacramento, came farmers from Missouri, Kentucky, New York and a dozen other Eastern states.

Westward from the Sacramento toward the high Coast Range treked a score of pioneer families of Glenn county; the Reagers, the Graves, the Kirkpatricks, the Scearces, the Simpsons, the Cushmans, the Bryans, the Brownells, the Scribners and many, many others; names familiar in later day history of Colusa and Glenn counties and of the Land of Orland.

But Orland as a site of a village, a town or even a city was not in the thoughts of any of these pioneers. No home was built in those days of a century ago within the present city limits of Orland.

### Granville Swift First Farmer

Only Granville Swift, pioneer of pre-gold rush days, lived within "shouting" distances of present day Orland. A mile north of the





present city limits of Orland, Granville Swift built the first home in Glenn county; the famous Swift Adobe on the banks of Hambright Creek only a short distance west of where Hambright empties into Stony Creek.

Here for a score of years he lived and prospered, farming many of the acres now a part of the Land of Orland, planting his wheat fields, his oats, pasturing his mules and cattle; becoming one of the richest men in the valley; his farming activities augmented by the wealth of gold dust reclaimed from his diggings by cheap Indian labor at Bidwell Bar, on the branch of the Feather river, ten miles above Oroville.

Legend and fact mingled in a tangled skein of the life of Granville Swift; legend of buried casks of gold dust which ultimately led to the complete destruction of the historic Swift Adobe as treasure seekers undermined the foundations in a fruitless search for this buried wealth.

But Granville Swift's story is another tale; one which cannot be told here and perhaps can never be told with any authentic background.

#### **Martin Reager Early Settler**

Swift's nearest neighbor to the east was Martin Reager, who settled on Stony Creek to the south of the present bridge on the Chico-Orland highway; Martin Reager, prominent in early Colusa history, father of three stalwart sons, and two daughters, all of whom have played an important part in the affairs of this part of the state over the past fifty years.

To the west were the Graves and the Kirkpatricks and the Searces and the Hambrights and the Papsts, all farmers, mostly from Missouri or Kentucky, settl-

ing along the live stream of Stony Creek. Farther west, the Simpsons, the Brownells, the Cushmans, the Bryans, the Scribners and a dozen other families, all with a live stream practically at their backdoor, spreading along the various small valleys until the steep slopes of the Coast Range halted them.

St. John and Newville, both crossroads of transportation were their trading centers. In midsummer great trains of wagons, loaded with sacked wheat made its dusty way out of the foothill country in a beeline to the river, loading their produce either on flatboats which made the trip to Monroeville, on the river to the east of St. John, or on down to the more certain river docks at Colusa. Hot and dusty was this long trip, with a stop, naturally at St. John, usually an overnight stop, where the mule skimmers refreshed themselves with a good shot of hard liquor, a good meal, a good bed, and gathered in all the neighborhood gossip such a center had.

#### **Orland Only A Gravelly Plain**

Straight through the present site of Orland, these loaded wagons rumbled, passing over the hot gravelly plain on which Orland now stands without even a thought by these pioneers that some day, when Newville and St. John faded into ghost towns, a new and modern trading center would come into being on this hot gravelly uninviting spot.

The fifties, the sixties and the seventies were the days of transportation by horses, mules and oxen, by river boat or horseback. But in the early seventies, another mode of transportation, the railroad began pushing its way northward from San Francisco bay, tapping the fertile acreages of



the Sacramento valley, though with the ultimate purpose of connecting Portland and the rich Oregon country with San Francisco.

#### Changes Face of Valley

The entire economic setup of the vast valley and its established towns along the river and in the foothills was to be vastly affected by the straight line of iron rails creeping from the bay up the valley. For the railroad right of way could not be located along the winding river where floods almost yearly inundated the rich lowlands. The right of way was located on higher ground, miles to the west of the river towns and as it reached northward crossing old roads from the foothill country to the river, new towns came into being, new town-sites, often on railroad property, laid out; towns such as Dunnegan, Arbuckle, Williams, Maxwell and finally in the late seventies, Willows.

The river towns such as Colusa, Princeton, Grimes, St. John, Glenn, deprived of their valley trade and no longer fed by the provision trains to the northern mines, either faded or stood still as the new railroad towns flourished beside the newly laid tracks.

It was on September 28, 1878, that the first train reached Willows, only sixteen miles south of Orland. Farseeing pioneers saw the trend of the times and the site of Orland, located on the crossroads from the ancient town of Newville to the river and the new railroad, was seen as the logical spot for another railroad town.

#### First Orland Realtor

The townsite of Orland at that time was owned by the Chamberlain brothers, what their first names were, tradition nor history

does not state, but one can safely state that the Chamberlain brothers were the first of a long line of real estate speculators which has proven beneficial at times and at times harmful to the well being of the Land of Orland.

Orland unlike towns to the south along the railroad was not laid out originally by the Pacific Improvement Company, the subsidiary of the Northern Pacific, the builder of the railroad. It was laid out by the Chamberlain brothers before the railroad arrived with the promise that the railroad would pass through the new townsite.

Once laid out, the old squeeze play, so familiar in early railroad building got under way. The railroad officials decided it would be wiser to veer to the east so as to cross Stony creek below the confluence of Hambright and Stony, and by so doing avoid the construction of two bridges. Such a move would leave the Chamberlains, one of whom owned the land to the north of the street now known as Walker street, the other the land to the south of Walker high and dry with a perfectly good townsite missed by the railroad.

#### Compromise Is Made

Conferences and clashes over the route took up most of the year as the iron rails came northward from Willows. Finally a compromise was made whereby the railroad would enter the townsite of Orland, which by the way was still unnamed, on what is now Railroad avenue, veer north by northeast through the town on a route which would have placed the railroad through the business lots on the east side of Fourth street, pass through the building now occupied by the Orland Register, on through the





present high school grounds and over Stony Creek northeast of the present Municipal Swimming Pool.

Somehow this route was finally abandoned and the Pacific Improvement Company took over the entire townsite and the present route of the railroad was accepted as the solution.

### A Name Out Of A Hat

About this time the town of Orland got its name in one of the strangest town naming occurrences recorded in California history. The details of the story are vague as all such stories are. A meeting was called for the purpose of naming the town.

It is known that there were three men present, Jonathan Griffith, father of Grace Griffith who taught school here for years and of the late Mrs. Preston Simpson and the late Mrs. Charles Harelson and "Bud" Griffith; Joe James, who for years lived at the south end of Orland where the Cottage Cafe and Motel now are located; and one of the Chamberlain brothers.

According to the account of the naming of Orland told by Mr. Griffith shortly before he died in 1917, this meeting was held not in some school house but in Mr. Griffith's home. And it was Mr. Griffith who actually submitted the name finally chosen.

Being a great reader of Shakespeare, and a great admirer of the character "Orlando", Mr. Griffith submitted the name "Orlando." One of the other men submitted the name Comstock after the famous Comstock lode; the third, the name Leland after Senator Leland Stanford, who later founded Stanford University.

But Shakespeare won over both of the famous mining and rail-

road kings. Unable to agree, the deadlock was broken when the three names were tossed into a hat, and "Orlando" was picked out by Destiny in the form of a youngster, whose name has been lost in the dust of a half century, but probably it was "Bud" Griffith, son of the venerable pioneer.

Mr. Griffith stated that later for no good reason at all, the final "O" of Orlando was dropped, and the new town became "Orland," the choice of Jonathan Griffith.

### Two Versions Given

However a different version was given of this tale by Mr. Griffith in an interview published in the Orland Register on August 21, 1909.

Mr. Griffith stated that in the winter of 1875 in a movement to get a postoffice here, it was necessary to have a name. A meeting was called at the Stony Creek school, which was located near the Mulholland place, east of town, about where John Leonard now lives. But only three men showed up, Parks Brown, Richard Chamberlain and Mr. Griffith. The first offered the name Comstock, Chamberlain the name Orland, and Mr. Griffith, the name Leland. The unknown youth drew the name out of the hat and it was Orland, Chamberlain explaining that it was the name of a town in Italy near Rome.

There are the two versions, both from Mr. Griffith, and you can take your choice.

While the wrangling over the route of the railroad went on apace, Orland blossomed forth with the first industrial plant within the present boundaries of Glenn county. The Chamberlain brothers deeded a block of land to Albert Papst, ambitious storekeeper of St. John, for a flour mill.





### Orland's Flour Mill

The mill was built in 1880, located on the block now occupied by the Library Park, a huge wooden building, four stories in height with a smaller building for the steam engine and boiler room, water being heated by wood.

Huge mill stones were installed and the flour mill was quite the wonder of the valley. But its glory was shortlived for on October 15, 1881, less than two years after its construction it went up in the biggest fire seen in these parts up to that time. The only remembrance left of this venture today is the street on which it faced; Mill street which runs to the north of the Library Park.

Regarding streets of Orland, today there appears no rhyme nor reason for the names of the streets running north and south. And history clears up the confusion of street names not one bit.

### Move From Olympe

The Chamberlain brothers, who incidentally before they became Orland's first "realtors", ran a butcher shop at Olympe, the hamlet out on Newville road where the road leaves the valley and climbs into the foothills, mapped out the townsite. They appeared to have left a nameless street on the west side of town, actually where the railroad tracks are now located, and called the first street east of this nameless street, First street, the next Second street. These are now Fifth street and Fourth street respectively.

But when the Pacific Improvement Company took over and revamped the townsite, they recognized Third Street as the Chamberlain brothers had laid it out, but put Second street and First street to the east of Third street,

instead of west as originally plotted; and then had to draw on their imagination and plucked A street and East street out of the air to fill out the city limits at the present East street. Early records are most confusing in trying to trace land deeds due to this "Brodie" by the Improvement Company.

### First Hotel In Orland

The Chamberlain brothers being mighty astute promoters for butchers, offered an entire block, sixteen 40-foot lots to anyone who would build a hotel. T. H. Dodson, later an editor and owner of the Orland Times, accepted the offer, and built the first hotel in Orland, a one and a half story building on the present site of the Masonic Temple at Colusa and Fourth.

All this happened before pressure became so strong that the Chamberlain brothers had to sell out to the Pacific Improvement Company, and that organization exerted pressure on all those property owners who had been deeded property by the Chamberlains, along the route finally selected for the railroad. After considerable wrangling, the railroad finally bought the lots and houses, located on the right of way just south of the present railroad station, and the houses were moved to new locations.

By some sort of a deal such as were common when railroads of this early day were involved, the county road right of way north of town to Hambright Creek, was given, lock, stock and barrel to the Northern Pacific for the railroad right of way. The county road was moved west alongside the railroad onto the Greenwood property.

An effort was made to raise funds by public subscription to



compensate H. A. Greenwood for this high-handed exercise of eminent domain, but no record shows the amount raised, if any. In 1884, a petition headed by A. A. Winne, an Orland blacksmith, and Joe James, was presented to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors to pay Greenwood for the damages, and the trifling sum of \$163.75 was set aside for this purpose by the supervisors on July 16, 1884.

All of which is to show that Orland came into being with considerable travail, confusion, wrangling and deceit, in which the railroad barons of the Northern Pacific played no small part.

#### **Town Limits Are Set**

Orland finally established as a town limited originally on the south by Yolo street; on the east by East street, on the north by probably Shasta and on the west by probably Eighth street, was ready for the influx of citizens; and business houses.

Among the first to open a business house in Orland were the Papst Bros., who with their cousin, C. J. Papst had a business at St. John. They contracted for a lot on Fourth street, south of Walker, on November 12, 1879 with the reservation that should the railroad right of way come through the purchased lot, the building would be moved.

#### **Moves From Olympos**

A man named A. Beersman, seeing the possibilities of Orland, was one of the first merchants here. He was operating a store at the village of Olympos, located on the Newville road just before the road climbs into the foothill country, near the present site of the Graves cemetery.

Beersman moved his store and residence to town, on the lots at

Fifth and Walker, operating a general merchandise store there until 1888 when he sold to B. N. Scribner, formerly of Newville. Scribner was operating a store on Fourth street north of Walker which he had purchased from Otto Raphael. He closed this store, and moved the stock to the Beersman store and operated it until his death in 1901. Scribner was the father of a number of Orland citizens, Mrs. Frank S. Reager, Sr., John Scribner, Jim Scribner, Mrs. Josephine Morgan, and Mrs. Stanley Murdock.

But back to the early eighties. Quite a number of homesteaders such as T. E. Brown, the Birch family, the Harris family, farming evidently with indifferent success, bodily picked up their homes, which were mostly shacks, and moved them into town, replacing them eventually with more substantial buildings. These men engaged in various occupations; blacksmithing, livery stables, saloons, rooming houses trucking and the like; some working as clerks in the various general merchandise stores.

#### **First Newspaper**

Of course it was inevitable that a new town like Orland should have a newspaper sooner or later. The stakes marking the streets were probably still standing when Orland's first newspaper, "The Orland Times," a weekly appeared with G. W. Malone as editor. Later he sold to Frank Freeman, who built a home on North Fourth Street where both of his sons were born; one the distinguished Willows attorney of later years, George Freeman. But the career of Frank Freeman as editor, lawyer and promoter, is a story in itself, and comes later in our tale of Orland.

Churches followed close on the





heels of the formation of the new town for the church then as now played an important part in the community life of Orland.

#### First Church Formed

Back in 1873 the first church in the northern part of the county was organized. This was the Stony Creek Baptist church. With the recently organized Stony Creek IOOF lodge, the church built a house of worship and lodgehall two stories in height, on the site of the present Odd Fellows cemetery, southeast of Orland on sixteen acres which they purchased from H. W. Steuben. The church occupied the lower floor, the Odd Fellows lodge the upper floor.

About the same time the Methodists organized and held services in the Plaza school, which by the way, was originally called Placer City. In a short time the Methodists built their own church located about three miles south of Orland and a mile and a half east of the present highway.

In 1884 the first services were held in the newly constructed Catholic church, built on the site of the present church at A and Colusa Streets, and on May 3, 1885 Bishop Manogue of Sacramento dedicated the church. This church stood until it was partially destroyed by fire on March 13, 1947, when the charred ruins were torn down and the present Catholic church constructed.

A year later in 1885, the Methodists built a church which, except for the gold cross atop the steeple, was almost a duplicate of the Catholic church. This church was located at the corner of First and Colusa, one block west of the Catholic church. Both churches faced on Colusa and looked as near alike as twin brothers.

The Methodist church was moved to the rear of the lot, revamped

and changed considerably in the early twenties, and finally was demolished when the Methodists and Presbyterians united and built the present Federated church in 1937, the new church being located across the street at First and Colusa, facing First Street.

#### Church Cost \$3160

The Baptist church out at the Odd Fellows cemetery fell on evil days and in the early eighties became dormant, but was revived in the latter part of the eighties under the name of Orland Baptist church. A new church building was constructed on the lot donated by the Pacific Improvement company at the corner of Second and Mill; in fact, on the site now occupied by the Orland school kindergarten and cafeteria. The old building was purchased by the school district, and torn down to make room for the new school buildings in the early forties. Incidentally this original Baptist church, quite a spacious building, built in 1889, cost \$3,160. Martin Reager, J. D. Lake and Jefferson Walker were the trustees of this new church.

Such were the religious edifices of Orland for a quarter of a century, the dozen or so other churches which have given Orland the reputation of having the most churches for its size of any city in the nation coming well after the turn of the century with the influx of newcomers to the new Orland Unit Federal Irrigation Project.

#### IOOF Lodge In 80s

Fraternal organizations followed close on the heels of the formation of the new town. The Stony Creek IOOF lodge moved from its home out at the site of the cemetery in the early eighties.





It first occupied the upper story of a two story wooden building built by Albert Papst on the lot now occupied by Sprouse's store and the V & S Pharmacy on the east side of Fourth street; Papst using the lower floor for his store. Lodge was held in this building until the present Odd Fellows Building, at the corner of Colusa and Fourth, was constructed in 1910.

The Masonic lodge first appeared on the Orland scene in 1882 when the Orland Lodge F&AM, No 265, was organized with John D. Crittenden as Master; Fountain C. Graves, senior warden; and Abbott Merrill, junior warden.

Crittenden must have been a leading spirit in the organization of Masonic lodges for in 1874, he organized the Calistoga Lodge, No 275, serving as the first Master. He also served at least two terms as Master of the Hills Ferry Lodge, No. 236. So evidently even in those days there were professional lodge organizers.

Orland Masonic lodge held its meetings in the upper floor of the present City Hall, then the Bank of Orland building, until its present Masonic Temple, at the corner of Colusa and Fourth, was completed in 1913.

The lodges for women of these two organizations followed much later. The Brilliant Star Chapter of Eastern Star No. 70, was chartered in October 1883, but had an indifferent career, its charter being recalled on October 22, 1891, for lack of interest. It was not until February, 1903, that the Eastern Star was reestablished, the present Citrus Chapter, No. 208, being chartered.

Orland Rebekah lodge, No. 191, was established on April 19, 1893 and continued without interruption to the present day.

These four lodges filled the need of fraternal organizations in Orland for a quarter of a century, other lodges not appearing on the scene until the influx of new settlers after the Orland project was formed.

### Postoffice In 1876

The first postoffice in this area of the valley other than St. John, was established on December 31, 1872, at Olympto, the town established out west on the Newville road. Fountain C. Graves was the postmaster, but the postoffice like the town was shortlived for it was discontinued on March 22, 1883, when Orland became the center of the valley travel.

Orland's first postoffice was established on May 5, 1876, shortly after the town was named, with Frederick W. Brown as postmaster. Other Orland postmasters included Mr. Nichols, Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, (the late Mrs. John Scribner), Clyde DeArmond, J. N. Tibessart, Fred S. Lowden and Jack Heintz, present postmaster.

The educational institutions of the Land of Orland, date back well beyond the formation of the town. The first school in this end of the county, then, of course, Colusa county, dates back to 1858.

### Placer City School

Placer City, the name practically lost because of a clerical error, was the forerunner of the present Plaza school district, southeast of Orland. Placer City was established a mile and a half north of Jacinto, five miles south of Monroeville. It consisted of two two-story houses covered with slats and cotton. Placer City also boasted a postoffice. The Placer school district included everything north of the present town of Glenn to the present Glenn-Tehama line.



In 1859 this sprawling district was further extended southward to take care of a couple of families who attended the school located at Placer City.

When Dr. Glenn bought up the land about Placer City and the few families moved away, the school was moved to St. John; motivated largely by the fact that the Placer (the City title had been dropped by that time) school burned to the ground in 1873.

#### **Plaza Gets Its Name**

Later in the early eighties, settlers northeast of Willows petitioned for the establishment of the Jacinto school district by dividing Placer. Somehow in the division, the name Placer was misspelled by some official and changed to "Plaza," and Plaza it has been since that time. This bit of misspelling has caused the erroneous impression that some Spanish influence caused the name of this district to have a decided Spanish flavor.

In 1871, a new district was formed, the Stony Creek district, comprising all that part of Colusa county, west of Orland to the Black Butte district, eight miles west of Orland, and south from the county line to the Grindstone district, and east from the Plaza district. Later Floyd, Newville, Westside, Chrome and Edison districts were formed, all in the eighties.

#### **Orland School Cost \$5000**

Stony Creek district later became the Orland school district with boundaries taking in most of the present project. The two-story wooden building was constructed from a bond issue of \$5000, but the second story was not completed as the district ran out of funds. This second story was only completed when the high school was formed in 1895

and the second story rooms were ceiled and used as the first high school in Orland.

H. W. C. Nelson was prevailed upon to buy this \$5000 bond issue which provided funds to build this first school house in Orland, as the trustees could get no one to bid on them. Colusa county by levying taxes on the district, paid off the first \$3300 but when the county was divided in the historic county division fight in 1891 and Glenn County came into being, this obligation seems to have been lost in the transfer of legal papers, and the remaining \$1700 was never paid to Nelson.

#### **China Berry Trees Planted**

Orland oldsters of today received their education in this typical two-story Victorian model school house; two teachers handling the job. One of them was the late Ruth Mason Scribner, who taught for many years here until she married John Scribner. It was Ruth Mason who was largely responsible for the planting of the umbrella trees, known as China berry trees about the school block and the double row adorning the grounds today which then led up to the main entrance of the school.

The Thode boys, Ed, Charlie and Herman, have related how Ruth Mason Scribner, who stood for no nonsense in the school room, though possessed with a wonderful sense of humor away from school hours, gave each youngster in her room, one China berry tree to care for. Periodically, she saw that each tree received its necessary bucket of water carried by its pupil-guardian from the pump in the school-house.

No tale of the Land of Orland especially of its growth of educational institutions would be complete without an account of





the short but hectic years of the Orland College, the only institution of higher learning of which the Land of Orland can boast.

### **Prof. Patch Forms College**

Early in the eighties, J. B. Patch appeared. Little is known of Prof. Patch before he came to Orland. A man of prodigious energy but of an uncontrollable temper, Prof. Patch was a mighty shrewd promoter as well as an excellent educator. By canvassing the county from the river to the Coast Range between Colusa and Red Bluff, he secured subscriptions for the building of a college at Orland.

The college was located on thirteen acres given by Albert Papst for this purpose. This acreage was just east of Woodward avenue, the present Walker street east of town passing directly over the site of the college building which Prof. Patch built.

### **Professor a Bricklayer**

The college that Prof. Patch built is said advisedly for he actually built it, being an expert bricklayer. He laid the entire outer course of bricks keeping well ahead of the three other bricklayers who built the inner course. This building of brick cost over \$7000.

Between bricklaying hours, Prof. Patch induced a Mr. Keefer who owned a mill north of Chico to furnish lumber for a boarding house on the campus. Keefer never was paid for the lumber and had to pay the carpenters in order to protect his lien on the building for materials.

Prof. Patch who seemed to have a most persuasive tongue, induced Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Lake to conduct the boarding house and opened Orland College in 1882 with about two dozen students.

However, Patch's conduct was so erratic in the school room that the students were afraid of him, thinking, probably with just cause, that he was demented, and the college was practically without students almost before the mortar in the new brick walls had set.

### **Left Holding the Sack**

Left holding the sack were Mr. and Mrs. Lake who had boarded the students. Prof. Patch had no money with which to pay this debt. Lake on January 14, 1884 secured judgment after bringing suit. Armed with an execution, Lake and Constable Gifford attempted to serve the papers on Prof. Patch.

But the ill tempered wily Prof. Patch was prepared for them. Up in the belfry of the college building, he had deposited a carload of hefty rocks. When the constable approached, down would come a shower of these small cobblestones. If the officer of the law attempted to parley with him Prof. Patch would ring the big bell vigorously.

### **Pulls Ladder into Belfry**

Constable Gifford retreated only to return with a warrant for resisting arrest. The officer of the law effected an entrance to the second story of the building but Prof. Patch had anticipated this move and had pulled up the ladder leading to the belfry tower.

An effort to capture the terrible tempered Prof. Patch by means of planks shoved through the trap door to the belfry tower found the peace officer and Lake facing the muzzle of a gun with Prof. Patch behind it. Then another parley was held with the professor dictating his own terms. These were that he be allowed to carry





his own gun; that he be tried in Colusa and not in Orland; and that no one should come within a stated number of yards of him.

And so the professor came down from his belfry tower where he had been exposed all day to one of the coldest north January winds experienced in many a year. Entering one of the deserted school rooms, Prof. Patch drew a chalkline on the floor; the professor on one side of the line the arm of the law on the other, to spend a cold cheerless night.

How the trial at Colusa ended, whether the Lakes ever got their money and what became of the terrible tempered erratic professor is another of the events lost in the dust of unwritten history.

#### Orland Normal School

Prof. William Henslee took over the college buildings in 1886 and renamed it the Orland Normal School. But its history was short-lived as Chico State Normal, the predecessor of Chico State College, opened about that time and all advance students were attracted to the new state institution, the local Normal closing in 1891.

A. P. Stone conducted a private school for a short time, but the attempt at higher education in Orland came to an abrupt end in 1892. Albert Papst brought suit and regained title to the land he had given for a campus.

The wooden dormitory was moved to Orland and located on Colusa street at Fourth and was used as the first Hotel Royal. In the late thirties it was torn down and its lumber used for the huge barn to the north of the Chico-Orland highway across from the former Murry Finch home.

The brick building was torn down and the bricks used by E.

B. Kesselring to build the two brick houses some thirty years ago on North Fourth street as well as the building on Colusa street adjoining the present Hotel Royal, now owned by H. W. Hosking.

#### Bank of Orland Formed

Of course the economic life of no community with ambitions for the future was complete without banking facilities. This need in Orland was filled in 1887 when the Bank of Orland was incorporated with a capital stock of \$100,000. A Beersman, the merchant, was elected president, Laban Searce, the pioneer, vice president, and R. B. Murdock, cashier. The directors of the new institution which carried on in good years and bad until it was absorbed by the Bank of America in the late twenties, had as its directors, H. W. C. Nelson, Laban Searce, A. Beersman, A. D. Logan, builder of the famed Logan warehouses, and W. C. Murdock.

The new bank was housed in the pretentious two story brick building, constructed at a cost of \$7,095, at the corner of Fifth and Walker, the upper floor being the lodge rooms of the Masonic Lodge. This building, modernized considerably, still stands and is now the City Hall of Orland.

While most of the business houses and all of the residences of Orland before the turn of the century were of wood, there were notable exceptions. The corner now occupied by Graham Bros. and Berlinger Bros. at Fourth and Walker, was built about 1900. The brick building across from the City Hall, formerly Searce and Franke, was built about the same time.

#### Hotel Orland is Built

The present Dunwoody Building at Fourth and Walker was built in



the nineties, funds being raised by the formation of a corporation for the proposed hotel. It was furnished by the Murdock Brothers who operated a general store and they had to take over the building as there were no funds after the building was completed, to pay them. They later sold the building to W. J. Rogers, who operated it as "The Orland Hotel" and, it along with the Hotel Royal, constructed of concrete after the turn of the century, did a landoffice business in housing prospects for the new irrigated acres of the Orland project from 1911 to the middle twenties.

#### **Old Opera House Torn Down**

The same sort of financial history plagued the Orland Opera House, now just a faint memory to most Orlanders. A huge wooden structure, one story in height, it was located at the corner of Fifth and Colusa, and for years was the gathering spot for every civic and school function. Here were band concerts by the Orland Silver Cornet Band, amateur plays, political rallies, water users meetings, and until the old gym was built at Orland High in 1918, the scene of many a hotly contested basketball game.

The old Opera House was built by a stock corporation long before 1900 but soon fell into the hands of Ira Mecum as the stockholders evidently tired of paying for a "dead horse," refused to pay assessments. With the building of the old gym and later of the Memorial Hall, the old Opera House fell into disuse and was finally sold in March 1920 and torn down, the lumber being used in Willows.

#### **Huge Warehouse Built**

One of the biggest building jobs of the eighties was the huge

grain warehouse along the tracks, north of Walker street, built by A. D. Logan & Co. This was the largest warehouse north of Port Costa, fifty feet in width and 750 feet in length with concrete floor covered with "coal-tarred" plank flooring. Here was stored each season the harvested sacked wheat for in those days no wheat or barley was handled in bulk. Flatbed wagons drawn by eight and twelve mule teams lined up along the Newville road, awaiting their turn to weigh in at the office located across Walker street west of the highway, a huge bell being rung for the next wagon-load of wheat to be weighed.

Similar warehouses were built by the Logan company at Malton, north of Orland, at Greenwood south of Orland, at Germantown, now Artois and on down the valley, though none equalled the size of the one at Orland. Later the entire string was taken over by the Depue Warehouse company, and operated for years. The Orland warehouse fell victim to a disastrous fire in the thirties and half of it burned. This was probably the most expensive fire ever to occur in Orland for besides the loss of the half of the warehouse and considerable grain, huge spools of copper cable, destined to become part of the PG&E high line west of Orland, were practically ruined.

#### **A Town of Dusty Dirt Streets**

A stranger arriving in Orland in the late eighties or early nineties, would find an overgrown village little different from a score of similar small towns up and down the Sacramento and San Joaquin valley. He would see a town differing only in its exceptionally wide streets; a town built on the east side of the railroad, the only one along





the route of the Northern Pacific from Woodland to Red Bluff.

A town of dusty streets, full of chuckholes, its business square was made up of stores and other establishments of wood with the typical early California false fronts and every establishment shaded by the wide early California wooden porches with comfortable deep seated chairs lined along in front of many of them.

#### Many Trees Downtown

Trees planted in a haphazard fashion, shaded most of the establishments; tall cottonwoods, poplars, black walnuts and the popular Chinese umbrella or China-berry tree, along with the ever present Chinese Tree of Heaven. Wherever you find this Tree of Heaven growing in California, you can be certain that at some time or other there was an early settlement, this tree marking the graves of many ghost towns of California.

Hotels of a sort, general merchandise stores, the usual number of saloons, lodging houses, a hardware store, two or three blacksmith shops, a barber shop of course with its service of public baths, a harness shop and a shoe repair shop, a meat market and at least two livery stables, a restaurant probably run by a Chinaman for across the tracks in those days was a definite Chinatown.

#### Business Houses of the Late 80s

Let's see just who was in business in the late eighties: B. N. Scribner & Co. and W. H. Papst, general merchandise; Prentiss & Diggs, hardware; C. F. Schmidt (the father of Everett J. Schmidt) saddlery and harness; H. E. Nordyke, meat market; J. L. Bender, lumber; J. H. Mitchell, drugs; H. E. Atwood, furniture and up-

holstery (and probably the undertaker); three saloons, two insurance agents, only one hotel, the Union, one restaurant, two livery stables, a bakery, a barber shop and bathhouse, two attorneys three physicians, a fruit and candy store, three blacksmith and wagon shops, two grain dealers and two stock buyers. And not a real estate man in the lot!

#### Windmill and Tankhouse

Board walks varying in height according to the varying levels. ended abruptly at the end of the business section and the wide streets meandered out through the sparsely settled residence blocks. Every residence, mostly box-like affairs of one story, had its own tank house and windmill and even tank houses and windmills were to be seen back of many of the business houses for there was no central water supply in those mid-Victorian days.

Such was Orland in those days of the late eighties, nearly seventy years ago. A sleepy nondescript typical California village in the midst of vast acres of dry farms, farms of dwindling returns from wheat and barley, of sheep and cattle; just another town of the many towns which sprang up along the line of the railroad.

Here in the Land of Orland lived the Reagers, the Brownells, the Graves, the James, the Scearces, the Ehorns, the Nelsons, the Papsts, the Greenwoods, the Cleeks, the Morrisseys, the Browns, the Scribners, the Schmidts, the Jaspers, the Grif-fiths and a score more pioneer families. Some within the present city limits in the sparsely settled blocks to the east and south of the business section; others in the widely scattered treeless plains where the farm homes were miles apart and each like





an oasis with its trees of poplar, black walnut, umbrella and eucalyptus and each with its towering windmill and tank house.

### Great Events in Offing

But most of these farmers and townfolks were to play some part in the two great factors which, unknown to them at the time, were to affect each one of them and change their mode of life and the entire outlook of the Land of Orland.

One of these factors was just over the horizon; the bitter battle which ultimately led to county division and the Caesarian birth of the County of Glenn; the other did not become a reality for another twenty years and even today is still far from reaching its ultimate possibilities; the economic use of irrigation by water on the starved dry acres of the Land of Orland.

One was political in its effect; the other, economic, but both brought vast changes in the lives of Orland folks who lived here on the eve of the unfolding of these two dramatic events.

### County Division Fight

The bitter battle over county division and the birth of Glenn County, cut bodily from the reluctant historic County of Colusa, is a tale in itself and if all the details were known, would read like a modern "whodunit" book.

Only the highlights of that bitter battle can be told here; Orland's part in this fight; a battle in which Orland might have played the leading role, but was content to be a disgruntled spectator while the towns of Colusa and Willows slugged it out with no holds barred.

Orland missed its chance back in 1882 when Frank Freeman as editor of the Orland Times, stir-

red up a bit of a hornet's nest by suggesting that a new county be formed. The northern boundaries were to be at Thomes creek, the southern boundaries about on the present line between Colusa and Glenn, with Orland, sitting in the geographical center of the proposed county, as the county seat.

### Orland Misses Its Chance

Frank Freeman rightly sensed the growing discontent with the setup of the farflung County of Colusa with the county seat, Colusa, located at the lower corner, miles of weary travel from the Land of Orland. The northern end of the county was in reality the "Little Orphan Annie," neglected by the "courthouse gang." Taxes were siphoned southward and spent there by county officials, all of whom were residents of that end of the county.

Freeman's open defiance of the so-called courthouse gang at Colusa, was received however, with only mild interest by Orland folks though they stood to gain the greatest by such a move. A mass meeting was attended by only a handful and while most of them thought something should be done, no one was anxious to defy the entrenched officialdom at Colusa and lead the crusade.

Freeman, finding little enthusiasm for his ideas in Orland, finally packed up bag and baggage, moved his equipment to Willows and bought the Willows Journal. There he found an ally in K. E. Kelly a fighting Irishman, who took to the county division idea with all his Irish fervor and proved the type of leader lacking in Orland.

### Kelly Pulls the Strings

Kelly a former state senator and a born politician, knew all the angles and never missed a single



shot. Unfortunately for Orland, Freeman not only moved his base of operations for county division from Orland but naturally took with him that idea of making Orland the county seat. Moving his proposed county line southward to approximately the present northern county boundary, he made Willows the geographical center of his new county and proposed Willows as the county seat.

By this move, due to no fault of Freeman nor of Willows, was planted the seed of the bitter rivalry and distrust between the two larger towns of Glenn County, which has not disappeared entirely even sixty five years after the conclusion of the county division battle.

#### Well Filled War Chest

The tale of the first open move to form a new county, made in 1887, to the actual conclusion of that battle in 1891 is long and varied; too lengthy to give in detail in this history of the Land of Orland. Tales of highhanded lobbying in which senatorial palms were well greased; of failure in the first effort in the state senate; of war chests raised and properly expended where they would do the most good; of Orland finding the prize they had disdainfully rejected, now quite worthwhile; turning to the enemy's camp and becoming an ally of Colusa; all this is so much water under the bridge.

#### Governor Vetoes Bill

The real battle was now on, all that had happened previously were mere skirmishes. Torchlight parades whipped up a white hot enthusiasm and the entire state watched as the battle raged.

Delegations after delegations from both camps assailed the state

legislature. The division group finally won in the legislature only to have Governor Bateman, new in office, veto the division bill; knowing full well that the new county would swell the Democratic forces in both houses and he was a staunch Republican.

But Freeman and Kelly while they might have lost a battle, had not lost the war. Two years later they came back with the same old battle cry only to find a most worthy and skillful opponent in John Boggs, a Princeton resident, and state senator of that section.

The division battle overshadowed all other legislation in 1890 and both sides resorted to mud slinging and name calling with frequent and deep dippings into the well filled war chests.

#### Orland Ally of Colusa

At least \$20,000 was poured into the fight by Senator Boggs and his cohorts, and it is safe to assume that the division camp expended an equal sum if not larger. And some of Boggs' war chest funds came from the Land of Orland!

The division camp won in the legislature and the new governor, probably irked by the fact that the row over the division of the comparatively unimportant County of Colusa had stolen the limelight of two legislative sessions, signed the county division bill.

An interesting sidelight was that Senator Boggs though beaten in the legislative battle, surrendered only when the division camp acceded to his request that the Boggs ranch and the town of Princeton where he lived, be allowed to remain a part of Colusa county.

With the battle won at Sacramento the division fight was





transferred to the infant County of Glenn where approval of the legislative action must be obtained at an election. May 5, 1891 was the crucial day. The new county was headed apparently toward sudden death for allied with the powerful Colusa group was the north end of the county for Orland still miffed over her lost opportunity, continued the unnatural alliance with the south end of Colusa County.

But the war chest was not empty and votes were not too expensive in those days, legend having it that six to fifteen dollars was the going price. The new county seat is said to have set some sort of a record in getting out the vote, well over 100 percent of the registered voters casting their ballots, and only three Willows ballots were recorded against ratification of the new County of Glenn.

#### **Court Battle Ended**

But the battle was not over, for now the opponents to the division turned to the law, attacking the legality of the entire proceedings. It is said that one die-hard Orlander financed much of this legal campaign which finally was dropped after months of angry "lawing."

Glenn county came into being, in a truly Caesarian birth; leaving in the wake of the "birthing", political sores between Orland and Willows and between Willows and Colusa which have endured for over a half a century and still keep the three cities from living in a true spirit of brotherly love.

Frank Freeman who started all this in his Orland Times back in 1882, went on to bigger and greater things, a political power in the new county, a lawyer of outstanding ability, and later in

life, attorney for the Southern Pacific. His son, George Freeman, followed closely in the able footsteps of his father.

What a row an ambitious young country editor kicked up on that summer day back in the early eighties!

#### **Named After Dr. Hugh Glenn**

And so in 1891, Orland found itself an unwilling portion of the new county, named after its most famous citizen, Dr. Hugh Glenn, the wheat king of California; Dr. Glenn who never lived to enjoy the final victory of that division fight, for he was murdered at the very beginning of that battle by a disgruntled employee on February 17, 1883.

It is interesting to note that at the elaborate ceremonies at the laying of the cornerstone of the new courthouse of the new county at Willows, there were dignitaries by the carload and organizations represented by the score. Yet in all the long list, as recorded by historians, the name of not one resident of Orland appeared.

#### **Water Running To Waste**

But greater things lay in store for the north end of the county; events which ultimately would outweigh the loss of the county seat of a new county; the economic use of water which had flowed down Stony Creek, bisecting the Land of Orland, for centuries.

Having its source fifty miles southwest of Orland, Stony Creek only a scant twenty-five miles from the southward flowing Sacramento into which it ultimately empties, flows northward for most of those fifty miles through the Stony Creek valley and African valley. Ten miles northwest of Orland, Stony Creek swings





eastward and enters the valley between the Buttes and finally empties into the Sacramento fourteen miles southeast of Orland.

But Stony Creek did not always confine itself to its present valley creek bed. A mild and gentle stream in the long hot summer months, Stony Creek in midwinter and spring, fed by the melting snows of the high Coast Range, often became a raging torrent.

### Tableland Built Up

Over the years before the white man laid eyes on the valley, Stony Creek wandered where and how it pleased, digging new channels to the south of its present stream bed, which incidentally is higher in elevation than the City of Orland. As new channels were dug, old channels were filled with the gravel and silt of these winter floods until practically the entire Land of Orland lies a good hundred feet higher in elevation than the remaining floor of the valley.

All this built up a thermal belt where killing frosts are a rarity and where citrus fruits and nuts thrive. Orland today is the most northerly spot in California where oranges are grown on a commercial scale.

### Will S. Green, The Pioneer

Year after year, the pioneers saw these great floods, this vast wealth of life-giving water running to waste to the sea. As far back as the seventies, there appeared a far-seeing prophet with a vision of a new and greater Sacramento Valley; Will S. Green, pioneer editor and publisher of the Colusa Sun, who spent a goodly part of his busy life, preaching the gospel of water to all who would listen.

But Will S. Green's voice, like

that of John the Baptist, was one crying in the wilderness; a wilderness of inertia, of closed minds, of content with the easy life of dry farming. True, Will S. Green envisioned a vast greater acreage fed by the stored waters of Stony Creek than ultimately proved possible. But Will S. Green had plenty of companions in early mistakes in irrigation including trained governmental officials. He as well as they had little on which to base their predictions and shot in many instances above actual reality.

The story of Will S. Green's effort to irrigate lands about Willows and Colusa county with diverted waters from the Sacramento, which ultimately led to the digging of the Grand Central Canal to the east of Orland, and making possible the vast acreage of rice fields and dairy farms of that area today, is another story; a story filled with high hopes, great disappointments, legal battles and finally great success.

### Family Orchards Thrive

Many of the early settlers of the Land of Orland, building new homes in the vast treeless plains, planted out family orchards; apples, pears, plums, mission figs, and peaches and found that they thrived and bore fruit abundantly. A few more, bolder than their fellows, tried out new fruits and even nut and citrus trees. Martin Reager out on the banks of unbridled Stony, east of Orland, planted almonds, believed to be the first in the county. When the first orange and olive trees were planted is not known, but many family orchards had their orange trees, some of the Washington navels, but mostly the oranges with seeds, and olive trees were common in home orchards.



The pioneer farmers near the streams naturally used water from wells pumped by windmills or hand pumps, and from the creek for irrigation on a very limited scale. Farmers farther up Stony Creek diverted a portion of the stream flow for their irrigated alfalfa pastures. But the supply was uncertain, the creek practically became a dry gravelly bed in late summer, and often when rainfall was scant, by late spring.

### First Almond Orchard

The first commercial almond orchard, an acreage of forty or more, was planted by P. D. Bane in 1896 and 1897 out along Stony Creek northeast of Orland. This orchard became quite a showplace and though raised with little or no irrigation, proved a commercial success. Many of these trees are still living and bearing a good crop today.

Oranges were planted on a commercial scale after individual trees in family orchards proved their worth. Frank S. Reager and Billy Morrissey planted the first grove south of town, bringing the young orange trees from Oroville. Expecting to water them from the Southside canal, they lost many of the trees that first year when water failed and had to do a considerable replanting. An extensive planting was made on what is now the Passifume place south of town in 1898.

Back in the eighties the first orchard of deciduous trees, probably peaches, apricots and prunes, were planted on what is known as the Hall ranch, northwest of town, not far from the South diversion dam. These thirty acres were watered from the canal which tapped Stony Creek and grew to be mature trees.

### Wins Converts Slowly

Will S. Green preaching the need of stored water, to insure a year-round supply, gradually won converts as the crops especially in the Land of Orland dwindled on dry acres starved from overcropping year after year.

Cooperative efforts to divert water from Stony Creek into a canal large enough to water an extensive acreage were taken in the early eighties, several companies being formed on both sides of the creek for this purpose. But the supply of water dwindled in the hot summer months. As the flourishing alfalfa fields burned in the summer sun, farmers came more and more to realize that their only salvation lay in the storage of flood waters in the upper reaches of Stony Creek, a plan advocated for years by Will S. Green.

### Finance The Big Problem

But financing such an ambitious project was far beyond the meager purses of these farmer-groups, and financial houses of the bay region showed little enthusiasm for the visionary ideas of a group of farmers up in the "cow counties."

In August, 1883, according to Rodgers' History, work began on the Stony Creek canal by the Stony Creek Canal Company, on the John A. Towl's place northwest of Orland. The company was capitalized at \$200,000. They set their sights high, figuring, and Will S. Green was one of them, that they could irrigate 190,000 acres with a canal only fifty feet wide and carrying three feet of water. With an enlarged canal, they expected to add 200,000 additional acres to receive water! But failure to get rights of way over





private lands and faced with suits by owners having riparian rights, their enthusiasm cooled and they abandoned the job.

#### **Irrigation District Formed**

In September, 1887, the Orland Irrigation District was formed, seeking to irrigate 14,000 acres on the north side of the creek. Later the Orland Southside Irrigation District was formed.

Some of the farmers, G. W. Murdock, F. C. Graves and others dug their own ditch to their own lands and actually brought the ditch within a mile and a half of Orland in an effort to protect themselves from being included in the more ambitious plans of the newly formed district. No water was ever turned into this ditch and when the Southside district was dissolved, John H. Graves of Willows and others from the county seat bought the ditch.

#### **Ditch Down Fifth Street**

This group extended the ditch into Orland and down Fifth street, this town ditch being a landmark in the early part of the century with bridges crossing it from every business house. It was a hazardous affair for the drunks along Fifth Street, many of whom had a quick sobering up in the chilly waters, infested with frogs and mosquitoes.

However the venture was not a financial success as few town-folks took water. The intake washed out in 1896 and those who had crops dependent on the ditch, put down wells to save them.

This ditch was later acquired by J. N. Scribner, J. B. Morrissey and Charles Donohoe. The intake was never reconstructed and finally this ditch, now part of the Orland Irrigation Project, was

sold for \$25,000 when the Reclamation Service entered the picture after the turn of the century.

#### **Ditch on North of Stony**

The ditch on the northside of the creek was promoted and owned by A. Hochheimer, Thomas Brown and David Brown, who owned much of which was later known as the Lemon Home Colony. This ditch was sold by them to the Reclamation Service for \$15,250.00 in 1909.

These were the outstanding efforts to bring Stony Creek waters to the parched acres of the Land of Orland. Financial difficulties dogged the efforts of every group, along with legal difficulties over riparian rights.

Many and varied were the efforts to develop small farms and orchards, most of them in good faith, but in this period when few knew how thirsty the acres could become in the hot summer, these efforts were destined to failure.

#### **Citrona Park Project**

Citrona Park, southwest of Orland was one of these. In the nineties, R. H. Trumbull, the owner of this large tract, subdivided it and sold it to retired Presbyterian laymen and ministers, men of the cloth from all parts of the East and Canada and even England; men who knew little of farming and less of farming methods in California. Contrary to general belief, this project was not sponsored by the church, but by the owner, Trumbull, who happened to belong to that faith.

The acreage was planted to young trees and sold largely to optimistic ministers who desired to retire for a life of ease in California. One realizes today how fantastic the whole scheme was





when the plan called for the watering of these young orchards by tank wagons from an inadequate well supply.

#### **Water Trees From Wells**

Many of the ministers came, found life in California far more rugged than anticipated. But the scheme did lead to the founding of the Orland Presbyterian church shortly after the turn of the century and the building of the local edifice now occupied by the Baptists; the church building being sold when the Presbyterians united with the Methodists to form the Orland Federated church in the early thirties.

#### **Cleek's Famous Acre**

Probably no one man turned the thoughts of these early Orland farmers toward the potentials of irrigation more than did Samuel Cleek with his "One Acre Farm." Samuel Cleek, great uncle of the Cleeks of today, gained statewide recognition with stories in many agricultural papers for his demonstration plot of what water and soil could do.

Samuel Cleek tilled every inch of an acre of ground which was located west of Marin street and north of Chapman and the present Charles K. Price school. He not only made a living on this one acre on which he raised everything from strawberries to onions, apricots to grapefruit, but laid aside about \$400 annually, a sizeable sum in those days.

#### **Self Sustaining Acre**

Cleek provided the countryside with fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers, always finding a ready market for everything he could grow and he grew everything. Cleek was visited by "Little Landers" from all parts of the state, there being a decided agitation at that time to intensely

cultivate "one-family farms" close to a sure market. Cleek died shortly after the turn of the century and his famous One Acre reverted to just another vacant city block.

But slowly and surely, the seed planted on every occasion by Will S. Green, took root in the minds of these pioneer farmers. Years of drought, dwindling returns from the overcropped soil and financial reverses aided and abetted the demand for irrigation.

#### **Reclamation Law Passed**

Two full decades of trial and error, of high hopes and despair passed in Orland before help came from an unexpected source. On June 17, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the National Irrigation Act, only one of the many progressive bits of legislation instigated and pushed to conclusion by him, but one which was to have far-reaching effects not only on the Land of Orland but the entire West including the great Central Valley of California.

Just who had the idea of seeking federal aid in building storage dams for the Land of Orland is still an unsolved detail of the turn of the century. A half dozen men claimed the honor of being the father of the Orland project. As Frank S. Reager, who by the way had more than his share in pushing the plan to fruition, remarked in later years, "With so many claiming to be the father of the Orland Project, we often wonder just what kind of a mother it had!"

#### **Ally in Valley Board**

Shortly after the National Irrigation Act became a law, the Land of Orland found an able ally, one whose voice was listened to with respect in Washington; the Sacramento Valley Develop-



ment Association. This organization was a sort of super-Chamber of Commerce, but covered the entire great valley with directors from every county. Its object was expressed in its name, the development of the Sacramento valley.

Will S. Green was its president until his death in 1903, and W. A. Beard, an ardent advocate of irrigation, its secretary-manager. Under the leadership of these men, aided and abetted by a sympathetic group of California solons in Congress, aid from federal sources was sought in earnest for federal irrigation of the entire Sacramento valley.

#### **Orland In The Lead**

The Land of Orland had the bulge somewhat on other sections of the valley. It actually had about 500 acres under irrigation of a sort; it had flourishing orange groves, almond orchards, alfalfa fields, many of which were under irrigation.

It had a source of water in Stony Creek, where dams could be built at not too great an expense, and it was ideally located to become a sort of a "pilot project" for the far more ambitious scheme of federal aid for the entire valley, a scheme that did not culminate until the recent construction of the Central Valley project.

Because it was to be a part of this more ambitious scheme the name given this trial project was "The Orland Unit Federal Irrigation Project," the initial unit of a vast scheme of projects.

#### **First Public Meeting**

The first concerted effort in Orland was a meeting on August 19, 1905 at the Orland Opera House, located at the corner of Fifth and Colusa. Frank S. Rea-

ger, as chairman, outlined the possibility of federal assistance. A committee was named to contact ex-Congressman Theodore A. Bell and seek his attendance at a meeting to explain the procedure necessary to gain this aid.

Over 100 farmers were present at this meeting and all favored seeking federal assistance. However they did have their sights a bit low, figuring that the construction costs would be \$12.50 an acre, to be paid back at the rate of \$1.25 an acre annually without interest.

Ex-Congressman Bell who evidently was seeking a chance to return into the political sun, did come to Orland and another meeting was held with 200 farmers present, on Oct. 27, 1905. Bell outlined the procedure necessary, urging that a Water Users Association be formed as the first step toward seeking federal aid. W. A. Beard, secretary-manager of the Sacramento Valley Development Association, was also present and from that time onward, was a staunch and valued ally of the Land of Orland.

#### **Seek 30,000 Acres**

A committee of nine was named to interview landowners in an effort to sign up lands on both sides of the creek, totaling 30,000 acres. Actually considerably less than that acreage was signed up by this committee.

Bell and Beard again returned for another mass meeting in November with George A. Reager as chairman. The chief question raised at this meeting was that 160-acre limit. Under the Reclamation law, no person could obtain water for more than 160 acres. The same law applies today. Most of the farmers interested, owned acreage far in ex-





cess of that amount and were not anxious to part with these surplus acres, though later by subdividing, they reaped a harvest from these surplus lands. In spite of this objection, some 50,000 acres were tentatively signed.

#### Beard to Washington

In December of that year W. A. Beard was sent to Washington D. C., the first of several such trips, to interest E. A. Hitchcock, secretary of the Interior, in the Orland project. But Hitchcock was a wily politician and would not commit himself, taking affront on one of Beard's visits because of a mixup somewhere along the line.

#### Water Users Organize

Showing the good faith of the land owners of the proposed Orland Project, who stood to benefit by this federal aid, a group on March 27, 1907, organized the Orland Unit Water Users Association. The capital stock was \$1,050,000 with a par value of \$50 a share, making a total of 21,000 shares. No stockholder could vote more than 160 votes regardless of the number of shares he held, one share equalling one vote.

The original stockholders were E. F. Hale, W. E. Searce, A. D. Christian, F. W. Sidener, O. Christian, A. J. Harelson, P. D. Bane, John A. Iverson, Sam Hogganson, B. F. Simpson, Henry Hendrickson, Mathias Peterson, George H. Mecum, W. H. Morrissey, J. B. Morrissey, Willard Clark, Albert Papst, P. L. Simpson, E. B. Kesselring, O. L. Johnson, S. F. Ehorn, C. F. Schmidt, W. L. Thompson, W. F. Nelson, T. J. Hicks, J. B. Hazelton, G. W. Harriger, Thomas L. Bates, James B. Tolley, M. M. Boone, Charles Mulholland, Ida Papst, Frank S. Reager, Bernard Simonsen, C. D.

Miller, Elizabeth H. Burnight, L. M. Reager, Geo. E. Wright, Geo. A. Reager, Bank of Orland, W. E. Spence, L. Broman, W. A. Greenwood, T. F. Carr, Charles L. Donohoe, Frank Freeman, James Masterson, E. H. Masterson.

Shares were according to the acreage owned, the largest shareholder being Charles L. Donohoe and Frank Freeman with 1,900 shares, next was S. F. Ehorn with 1,412 shares and third was W. A. Greenwood with 1000 shares. The smallest stockholder was A. J. Harelson with one share; W. E. Spence with two; and J. B. Hazelton, E. B. Kesselring and M. M. Boone, each with four.

#### Progress at a Snail's Pace

But like all such federal affairs, the entire plan moved at a snail's pace with politics, state and national, playing a behind-the-scene part in every move. Surveys had to be made to learn the types of soil, reports considered by Congressional committees and various bureaus. Other areas entered the scene in an effort to divert attention from Orland which really had the inside start on this federal money appropriated from public land sales.

Just when the tide turned so strongly in favor of Orland is not certain, but newspaper reports of that day indicated that the tide turned on July 27, 1907 when James R. Garfield, the new Secretary of the Interior, and his party visited Orland on a tour of the West.

#### Garfield's Visit Turns Tide

In the party with Secretary Garfield were top brass from Washington; such men as Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, and actually the father of the Reclama-





tion law; F. H. Newell, Chief of the Reclamation Service, Congressman McKinley of this district and Congressman Englebright of the district to the north, and a dozen lesser governmental officials.

The Garfield party, traveling by special train, arrived in Orland late in the afternoon. Canvas shelters had been placed at the depot to protect the crowd from the hot July sun.

Frank S. Reager was again chairman of the day and Secretary Garfield spoke briefly in a most encouraging fashion on the possibility of federal aid. The party after an hour left for Willows for the night.

#### Four Borrowed Cars

But next morning, the entire group by prearrangement, returned to Orland by automobiles, four fine cars being arranged for the event, loaned by the owners, one in Marysville, one in Sacramento, one in Red Bluff and one in Colusa.

The group, after breakfast at the new Hotel Orland, now the Dunwoody Building, was taken to the site of the south diversion dam, being shown the canal already built by private enterprise; then on a tour of the few hundred acres which had profited from irrigation waters, then to the P. D. Bane almond orchard, where the trees were mature without irrigation. Here a "bounteous lunch" was served in the almond hulling shed with a fine display of fruits and nuts raised in the Land of Orland. "Ice cold lemonade was part of the bill of fare."

#### Garfield Gives Promise

Finally the group was taken through more orchards and orange groves to the Jim Masterson vineyard, about where Fairview school

now stands. Secretary Garfield was so impressed that in his farewell impromptu speech, he practically promised early and favorable action on the Orland Project.

With the federal plum considered pretty well assured, the Water Users Association attended to such minor details as getting the articles of incorporation approved in Washington and waited rather impatiently for the final act which would clinch federal aid for Orland.

#### Pact Finally Signed

On October 14, 1907 the long struggle which seemed so hopeless less than three years earlier, ended. The Department of the Interior approved the Orland Unit Federal Irrigation Project and it became an actuality on that date, on paper, \$650,000 being set aside by Secretary Garfield for construction costs.

The news was received in Orland with an all-out celebration, "Flags were run up," the Orland Register reported, "and when evening came, anvils were brought out into the street opposite the Hotel Orland and fired. A small cannon was brought into use, and skyrockets and bombs were features of the celebration." Greetings were received from the energetic W. A. Beard and other notables.

So ended the long battle to finance with federal funds the Orland Project, a project for which at the time, 12,000 acres were actually signed, but before many weeks, had been increased to 14,000. These acres lay mostly to the east of Orland and north of the creek. It will be noted that today the easterly boundary of the Orland Project is jagged, a number of large acreages being held out by their owners who had



little faith in the proposed venture.

#### Select East Park Site

The actual construction was yet to get under way and such work took time. The engineers after exploring all possible damsites on Stony Creek, including Julian Rocks, decided upon the one southeast of Stonyford, known today as East Park dam, located a good 40 miles up the stream from Orland. This dam was to impound 50,000 acre-feet of water for use when the natural flow of Stony Creek proved inadequate to water 14,000 acres of the new Orland Project. Plans for the East Park Dam were completed in June, 1908, and a private telephone line run from Orland by way of Newville and Elk Creek so that the headquarters could keep in contact with the construction work.

Ten acres were purchased on Eighth street as a project headquarters at a cost of \$37.50 per acre, this land to be used as an experiment plot to aid Orland farmers, but this phase of the plan never amounted to much.

In July, 1903, the first load of material for the work at the south diversion dam was hauled from Orland by six horse teams. This included a donkey engine, two gas engines, a pile driver, timbers, tents for the workmen and small machinery, all from Umatella, Oregon.

#### Bids Open for Huge Dam

On August 29, 1908, bids for construction of East Park Dam were opened, there being sixteen bidders. The lowest bid was by Lasus and Lasus, Oakland, for \$64,508, the government furnishing all the cement, steel and other materials going into the dam. At that time T. H. Humphreys, who had been project manager, re-

signed on account of ill health, and the chief engineer assumed his duties.

After reviewing the bids, the Reclamation Service on September 15, 1908, awarded the contract for the construction of East Park dam to the Stanley Construction Company of San Francisco, the third lowest bidder, for \$79,881.65. On October 31st representatives of that firm were on the ground preparing camps and making preliminary arrangements. It must be remembered that every bit of material, every piece of machinery had to be hauled by horse or mule teams from Willows or Maxwell over dirt roads to the damsite.

In November, 1909, the actual boundaries of the new project, containing approximately, 15,000 acres, were made public by the Reclamation Service and met with little objection. The boundaries in the main are the same as those of today with the exception of the addition in 1914 of the Murdock Tract and Citrona Park and various odds and ends, mostly to the west of Orland.

#### "Deepwater Bill"

At the turn of the century, W. F. Nelson, "Deepwater Bill", as known to his host of friends, bored many of the wells in the Land of Orland, seldom hitting a dry hole. It was while boring the deep well at the home of C. F. Schmidt at the corner of Fourth and Yolo, that he received his nickname. Schmidt, who was the husband of Kate Schmidt and father of Everett J. Schmidt, local business man, dubbed Nelson as "Deepwater Bill" when he hit a fine stream of water and that has been his nickname to this day.

In April, 1909 plans for the distribution system were completed, such as the canals and





laterals and these were let out by bids to local farmers. It must be remembered that all of this work was done, along with the leveling of thousands of acres for irrigation, not by the modern method of huge earth moving machines, but by the reliable old "fresnos" and mule or horse power. The cost of these ditches and canals was estimated at \$32,869.

In November, 1909, the Reclamation Service found that the estimate of the cost of the project was too high; that instead of the \$650,000 estimate, the actual cost would be but \$608,000, a neat sum of \$42,000 less than anticipated; an unusual occurrence in federal operations.

#### **Work on Dam Starts**

As soon as danger of winter floods had passed in the spring of 1909, actual construction on the East Park Dam got under way, two shifts of eight hours each being used.

With the project assured and even before the first excavation for bedrock at East Park Dam, the town of Orland which had changed but little in two decades, took on the appearance of a boom town.

#### **Hamilton City Founded**

In late 1905 and 1906, a new town came into being in the northern portion of Glenn county. A syndicate of capitalists purchased the 5000 acres of the Walsh grant, east of Orland bordering on the Sacramento River, and started work on the construction of a sugar beet plant. A new town was laid out a few miles north of the dying St. John and named Hamilton City, after E. C. Hamilton, one of the heaviest stockholders in the new company.

A branch railroad line was started from the main line direct-

ly north of Stony Creek at what is now known as "Wyo" to the factory and later extended down the rich river lands rejoining the main line at Harrington in Colusa county, but missing Colusa.

Orland had its first taste of incoming settlers when 200 settlers arrived on March 3, 1906 by the late train, bound for Hamilton City to work in the beet fields. The Opera House had to be utilized to bed down the first wave of settlers to Northern Glenn county.

As early as July, 1909, it was urged that the town be incorporated. In August A. H. Quatman of San Francisco arrived with the first of the many loads of landseekers, bringing a half dozen for a look at the project.

#### **Subdivisions Under Way**

Huge tracts belonging to the dry farmers were either subdivided by them into twenty and forty acre tracts or sold to various groups who subdivided. As the federal government placed no restrictions on the prices to be asked, land worth ten and fifteen dollars an acre before the Project entered the picture, skyrocketed to \$100 and \$150 an acre. Plenty of money was made by the subdividers who got in on the ground floor.

Newcomers were especially impressed with the almond and orange trees. Though few in number comparatively, they were commercial orchards and groves; two carloads of oranges being shipped that year and 35 tons of almonds worth \$7000 harvested.

#### **Need for New School**

Need for a new school was apparent, an increase of 52 pupils being recorded in the year. A mass meeting was called on February 23, 1909 and it was decided





to hold an election for the voting of a bond issue of \$24,000 for a new school to replace the old wooden building built in 1883.

This election was held on March 30th but was defeated overwhelmingly with 46 votes for the bonds and 57 against.

Another election for a \$27,000 bond issue was held, however, on March 1, 1910, and newcomers here long enough to become voters, overcame the inertia of the older settlers, and the bond issue carried by a vote of 85 to 10.

#### **Mission School Built**

On May 14th, bids were opened and the contract let for \$27,800 for the construction of the present Mission or May L. Reager Building. The old school was moved by Hans Sievers to one corner of the grounds and on completion of the new building, torn down after a quarter of a century of use.

Other buildings which were to change the entire appearance of the business section were started; concrete or concrete block buildings taking the place of the ancient wooden structures. An addition to the Farmers Cash Store at Fifth and Walker; the Barceloux-Iglick Building at Fourth and Walker and finally the present Odd Fellows Building at Fourth and Colusa.

#### **Odd Fellows' New Home**

The contract for this two-story lodge building was let the same day as that for the new grammar school. The contract price on the Odd Fellows Building was \$13,600. Baraca Hall, attached to the Baptist church, a place for general gatherings and a miniature gym, was built by public subscription.

The cultural life of the community was not overlooked. Mrs.

M. A. Sayler and Mrs. O. P. Bates started a fund for a public park, tentatively purchasing the lots on which the Baptist church now stands.

#### **Women's Club Formed**

The Woman's Improvement Club of Orland—note that the original name was "Woman's Improvement Club" not "Women's" as of today—came into being with enthusiastic support on March 10, 1909. Mrs. E. B. Kesselring was named president; Mrs. Corwin French, vice; Mrs. Salliger, secretary and Mrs. Graves, treasurer.

Their first activities were the opening of a library on a part time basis downtown, and urging the establishment of a park. On March 30th at a mass meeting, a half dozen sites were offered; the present Spence Park north of the Memorial Hall; five acres near the Reclamation office, Greenwood Grove; and 40 acres at Wyo. On April 14th the offer of William E. Spence who owned all the land in the north end of town, of two acres free of cost was accepted, and so the present Spence Park which has become the "little Orphan Annie" of Orland's fine system of parks came into being.

#### **New Homes Are Built**

A number of new homes, the first in a decade, were under construction, the French house on Yolo, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bev. Mason, the latter a granddaughter of the builders, "out in the suburbs" as it was described in the Register at that time; the J. B. Hazelton home at Eighth and Walker, now owned by J. A. Wickland, Sr., and the most pretentious of them all, the colonial home of Earl Mecum, at Third and Walker.

Though a lighting district had



been formed in Orland, the need of incorporation was apparent and a mass meeting was called on August 30, 1909 at the Opera House, the new town to have boundaries so as to be certain it had the necessary 500 population.

#### **Orland Incorporates**

At the election on November 2, 1909, the battle for incorporation was won by a vote of 69 to 13. George E. Wright, the first chairman and first mayor of Orland, Dr. S. Iglick, Dr. G. E. Rawlins, Thomas J. Hicks and John B. Hazelton were elected trustees with J. N. Tibessart as clerk and W. E. Scearce as treasurer.

At about this time occurred one of those battles for patronage which appear useless at this time. The Glenn County Telephone Company came northward from Willows in competition to the established line, the Sunset Telephone Company, and for a half dozen years every business house had to have two telephones, one for each company until finally the Glenn county outfit sold to the Pacific, the successor of the Sunset.

#### **Norwegians Arrive**

In the meantime new settlers were arriving to find homes in sunny California in the Land of Orland. On December 4, 1909, twenty-five arrived on one train; all Norwegians from South Dakota; the Norbys, the Holviks, the Sivilsends, the Jacobsons, many of them settling on the Jasper ranch southeast of Orland outside of the project.

There's an interesting story in connection with the arrival of the Holvik party. On the same train were Andrew Erickson and his son, Arthur Erickson, headed not for Orland, but in an effort to escape the cold winters of

Nebraska, to Lakeview Ore., of all places.

The Ericksons kept on northward to Weed. Here somehow they missed their train connections and rather than stay all night, headed back to Orland, looked it over, bought land and their families joined them the following summer. That is how Arthur, Henning and Joseph S. Erickson, Sr., happened to become citizens of the Land of Orland, along with all their many descendants, rather than of Lakeview, Ore.

On December 17th, twenty-two new settlers in one group, the Lundeen, Molines and other relatives, arrived on the evening train from Iowa, all becoming developers of fine farms and prominent citizens of the Land of Orland.

C. W. Lavey and L. W. Miller, the latter the builder of Bungalow Row, arrived from Washington, and succeeded in having East street extended from South street southward; later to be opened up in town for the longest street and road in the project.

Agitation was started for the opening of Walker street, east of Woodward Avenue over the old college grounds to prevent a long detour of the new settlers to the east of Orland.

#### **Pour Concrete At Dam**

In the meantime, East Park Dam, a huge concrete structure between two high rock buttresses, was slowly rising, the first concrete being poured on September 11, 1909. Few folks in Orland saw this structure while it was being built; forty miles over dusty roads by the uncertain automobiles of those days being quite a chore.

However on June 18, 1910, a community auto excursion to East Park was held and eight





automobiles loaded with Orland folks, food, spare tires and repair kits, started at eight in the morning. They spent the morning making the trip, had lunch at the dam where the forms were still in place, and then stayed at Fouts Springs all night, the round trip being too much for the cars and passengers of those days.

During all these formative years of the Land of Orland, organizations were formed periodically to boost the community. Chambers of Commerce, Promotion Clubs, Boosters Club; each started enthusiastically but lacking the life blood of sufficient funds, dying a slow death. Then an old time revival meeting, usually engineered by the real estate brokers, would be held, and a new organization launched.

#### Orland Promotion Club

One of the most active was the Orland Promotion Club formed in 1910 with George Wright as president, P. D. Bane as vice president, and W. E. Scarce as secretary. Evidently with wisdom gathered from previous experience, no treasurer was named at least not at the organization meeting.

On March 24th with the Women's Improvement Club, the new club held a big "Get Acquainted Night" in the Opera House, with the newcomers as the special guests.

A prize of a fine golden oak rocking chair was awarded Rev. J. W. Blodgett of the Baptist church for submitting the best slogan for the new Orland Promotion Club: "Persistent Pushing Promotes Progressive Prosperity."

#### Orland Baseball Park

Sports had its place in Orland's hectic days of the formation of the Project, especially baseball,

Orland being as rabid a baseball town in those days as today. On March 15, 1910, a group of baseball fans formed the Orland Baseball Association with Willard Clark, Ed E. Green and W. B. Morrissey as directors, and purchased the acreage in the southwest part of town, now facing Highway 99W, erected a grandstand and here for a quarter of a century, Orland fans enjoyed baseball.

The baseball grounds were later taken over by the Glenn County Fair Association, the stockholders taking fair stock which later proved worthless, for their equity. Here was held the Glenn County Fair from the time of its inception in 1918, until 1933, when the depression forced the fair association into the red, and the grounds had to be deeded to the J. L. Stuart company for back rent for the huge tents used during Fair Week.

#### Spence Park Accepted

The boom in building, in real estate and in city improvement took on an even faster tempo during 1910 as Orland anticipated the completion of the Project and the turning of stored water into the new ditches. A new bridge known as the Gianella bridge, was under way, the bridge which now spans the river on the Chico-Orland highway. The assessed valuations in town boomed to \$310,000. The deed to Spence Park was accepted by the Town Board of Trustees. DePue's put in a modern feed mill at the south end of the long warehouse which they had taken over from Logan.

The almond harvest that year was thirty and a half tons grossing \$8,000. Work was started on the C. F. Schmidt building on Fourth street. The new school was completed and six of the



eight rooms were occupied by 178 pupils. Plans were completed for an alfalfa meal mill with a capacity of 40 tons daily.

There was strong agitation at this time for an extension of Project acreage though no stored water had run in the ditches of the limited acreage ready for water; an extension of another 50,000 acres in another irrigation unit with two new dams.

#### **Odd Fellows Dedicate**

The Odd Fellows Hall was formally dedicated with elaborate ceremonies on November 11th. E. B. Kesseling decided to build a two-story concrete hotel, the present Hotel Royal. Work was started on a new Presbyterian church and the cornerstone laid on December 11th.

And real estate men were reaping the harvest of newcomers from every state in the Union with prospects arriving on every train. Half the town's leading citizens became real estate salesmen. In one day sales of farm lands were reported by the following: Banè & Miller, Morrissey & Harriger; George E. Nygaard, a newcomer who dominated the field in a few years; Spence & Sturm; S. Ehorn and Son.

#### **836 Census In 1910**

A. N. Burch, the new Project manager, announced that all concrete structures of the Project were complete and stored water for lands in the Project ready for irrigation, would be available for the crops in the season of 1911. Surely 1910 as were several years to follow, boom years for the Land of Orland. The official census of 1910 showed 836 residents in town though the real estate operators were certain that many noses had been missed in the counting.

1911 showed no abatement in the boom. East Park not only filled to the brim early in March but a storm during the week of March 4th, totalling 7.58 inches, sent Stony Creek on its worst flood rampage in over a quarter of a century, washing out bridges and tying up railroad traffic for several days.

Rumor spread down the foothill area below the dam and even to Orland that East Park Dam was unequal to the task of holding back the waters of the huge lake formed back of it. A. N. Burch and project officials made a special trip to the dam, allayed these fears by reporting the dam doing the job well.

The demand for sewer and water service in Orland resulted in a bond election on May 2, 1911, to vote bonds of \$50,000 for a municipal water system and a sewage system. The results of the election were never in doubt so strong was the feeling of optimism in the air. The vote was 123 for the bonds to three against!

#### **Two Newspapers For Orland**

In the midst of the boom days of early project history, a second newspaper was established in Orland, "The Orland Unit". Published first in 1911 as a tabloid, but later increased to regular newspaper size, the Unit was first published by Dick Smith, now of Williams. In 1915, H. M. Keene purchased a partnership in the paper and in 1917, bought out Smith's share, when Smith expected to be drafted, but never was. Harry Keene operated the paper with his son until his retirement. It is now published by his son, Don Keene, and Stephen Blacet III, with Mrs. Marjorie Keene as editor.

#### **Cleek A Battling Editor**

"The Orland Register" was es-





tablished in 1898, being the successor to "The Orland News", W. L. Rogers, whose "History of Colusa County", was published in 1889, was one of Orland's earlier editors. Then came Colgate and with the Register, Wesley L. Davis, stepfather of Mrs. Bessie Sanford, formerly of Orland; both now living in Gridley. Then came John L. Cleek, brother of the local Cleeks, who waged a mighty battle for the Project when the outlook was not too bright. Cleek is still in the newspaper business, living in Vallejo.

George Leifried, stepson of a Willows veteran editor, took over from Cleek and in 1911, J. N. Tibessart, teacher in the local schools, became associated with Leifried.

"The Orland Register" was purchased in 1913 by L. W. Wigmore and W. C. Parry. The former took over Parry's interests eighteen months later and has continued almost without interruption as editor to today. The Orland Register is now owned and operated by L. W. Wigmore and Lester J. Jacobs.

Orland is one of the very few towns of its size to boast of two newspapers and the only town in California which has two semi-weeklies. Both The Orland Unit and The Orland Register have been active in pushing worthwhile community efforts during the past half century and work in unison in making Orland a better place in which to live.

#### Plan Famous Jubilee

The plans for a two days' "Jubilee" to celebrate the turning of stored water into the canals and laterals of the Project took shape with the Water Users' Association and the Chamber of Commerce the sponsoring bodies.

June 16th and 17th were set as

the dates and preparations were made to entertain a crowd such as had never attended a celebration in the valley. Special trains were arranged with one and a half fares. Five Pullman sleeping cars to handle the overflow of visitors, along with a dining car, were to be brought to Orland for the event.

The agitation for additional irrigated acreage up to 50,000 acres grew. At a mass meeting it was proposed to build another dam across Stony creek at Julian Rocks. Another plan of special interest today was the forerunner of the present Sacramento Canals project. It was proposed to tap the Sacramento river at Red Bank, the site of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam of today, and bring water by gravity flow through huge canals to the acres to the south and southeast of the project; a plan almost duplicating the present canals project.

The first rural delivery route, now a part of Route One, was established through the efforts of Postmaster Clyde DeArmond. 20,000 booklets telling of the Land of Orland were ordered for the grand Jubilee. A queen contest was launched with a half dozen of the fairest young ladies of Orland becoming candidates for Jubilee queen.

#### Jubilee in June

At last the great day came, June 16 and 17, 1911, and the Orland Jubilee became a fact. Water of which there was an overabundance, filled every canal, lateral and ditch. Seven blocks in the business section were in holiday attire. A special edition of the Orland Register showed excellent photos of the town and project; East Park Dam, harvesting alfalfa, orange groves, harvesting al-



monds, the new Mission school building, prize hogs, olive groves, grain being harvested and the famous ditch running down Fifth street.

The Jubilee opened with a Grand Parade on Friday morning, the first contingent with W. D. (Wave) Kesselring, city marshal and his mounted deputies, Walter Steuben, Magnus Peters, Claude Shellooe, Magnus Utz, Avery McBain and Ralph Papst. The 2nd Regiment Band of Chico preceded the royal float of Queen Marguerite (Marguerite DeArmond) and her maids of honor, Delphia Judd, Opal Brown, Mary Masterson and Grace Griffith, with Lucille Sperlich and Elizabeth Mattoon as pages. Wade Bates and Rollo Harelson were the queen's guards, while Dr. S. Igllick was the coronation officer and Annvonette Bates, the crown bearer.

#### **Pardee the Honored Guest**

Then came the dignitaries in cars, with ex-Governor George Pardee as the honored guest. City officials, county officials, state officials, reclamation officials, Sacramento Valley Development Association officials, Orland Woman's Improvement Club officers, enough top brass to fill all the available automobiles in the county. Willard Clark was grand marshal with Dr. Sam Goldman and Harry DeLasaux as his aides.

Then came the Orland Band, followed by a score of organization floats and finally the industrial and farm products floats including 8 and 10-mule teams driven by jerkline.

At the school grounds on a huge platform, Queen Marguerite was crowned with ex-Governor Pardee as the orator of the day, though the smaller fry from a dozen towns had their part in the program.

#### **"Spillway" Name for Zone**

Then the "Spillway," the imported version of the modern Zone got in its innings. Two baseball games were the afternoon attraction, the winners to play for the cash prize on Saturday. Orland was eliminated by Willows and Colusa by Marysville with Marysville winning the final game. The first evening wound up with a grand open-air ball on a platform built for the event, with Queen Marguerite and ex-Governor Pardee leading the Grand March.

#### **Queen Marguerite Holds Court**

Saturday saw another big parade, a Horribles Parade with Tom Brown as marshal and Pete Christian as "Queen Lil". The cannibals' cage float showed Dan Sturm, mayor, T. J. Hicks, Dr. Rawlins, Dr. Goldman, Dr. Gilman, Bill Spence, Dave Sinclair (the only colored bootblack in town) and an unnamed Chinaman as the cannibals; along with dozens of other horribles floats.

A Wild West Show, the early version of the present day rodeo, a six mile motorcycle race, the final baseball game, the "Spillway" events, a reception by Queen Marguerite in the new Odd Fellows Hall, conducted auto tours over the project a grand finale grand ball and street carnival; and the famed Jubilee, the first and most lavish celebration of its kind attempted in Orland, became history, but rather painful history.

#### **Jubilee a Touchy Subject**

For it soon was apparent that Orland boosters in their enthusiasm, had badly overshot their mark; that the Jubilee celebrating the important event of water in the canals, failed to have much pull outside of the immediate vicinity of Orland. The anticipated





crowds by train did not materialize; the sleeping cars on the side-line remained empty. The Jubilee, to state it bluntly, was a mighty long way from the success anticipated by Orland boosters.

The Jubilee was a touchy subject for a number of years, and Orland for half a decade, confined its celebrations to home folks, but usually found a spot in every such celebration to hold a "wake" for the Jubilee, and inter it with solemn ceremonies.

### Many Familiar Names

A partial list of business men in Orland at the time of the Jubilee is interesting. Old timers can have the game of figuring what business each of them was in. Here they are: Sig Levy, Ira Mecum, Harry DeLasaux, Earl Mecum, Wesley Birch, Fred Benton, C. A. King, Tom Scribner, E. F. Hale, William DeFries, P. K. Hicks, William Chaney, George E. Wright, John Mehl, T. J. Green, C. F. Schmidt, C. A. Mulledy, W. R. Thomas, J. B. Hazelton, P. L. Simpson, Kim Yuen, J. N. Scribner, Henry A. West.

T. J. Hicks, Emil Storz, Dr. Sam Goldman, Dr. S. Igllick, Dr. T. H. Brown, Dr. G. E. Rawlins, R. L. Clifton, D. W. Shelter, W. E. Searce, Louie Codromac, Mrs. Seevers, J. T. Hulen, George Harriger, Henry S. McBain, Gus Utz, Julius Utz, John Thomas, Arthur Erickson, George A. Barceloux, E. F. Ready, C. D. Judd, William Shearer, George W. Leifried, E. E. Green.

Perhaps the indifferent success of the Jubilee was but a portent of things to come. The winter of 1911-1912 failed to bring the usual winter storms and for months there was no inflow into East Park Lake. However with only 550 acres using water the first

year, the reservoir had a tremendous holdover. Late spring rain did relieve the situation somewhat, but East Park did not utilize its spillway for any overflow that year or the following year.

### Doubt Water Supply

There were some who ventured the thought that the engineers who had located the dam at the perfect damsite at East Park, might have been a bit over-enthusiastic as to the possible run-off from the barren hill country back of the dam, pointing out that few living streams fed by the mountain snows, were trapped by the dam.

But these doubting Thomases were lost in the continued boom, Orland waxing prosperous not on its own productivity, but on the funds siphoned into Orland with every trainload of prospective settlers, bringing with them hard earned cash from their Mid-western farms.

As a byplay to the sale of real estate, Orland went through its initial local option battle that year with its usual name calling and violent mass meetings. However, Orland stayed "wet" by seven votes, 103 to 96 at the election on September 12th; and incidentally remained "wet" until prohibition days in 1918, having its three of four well conducted saloons, while the rest of the country was as dry as a bone.

### Fandandrum Club

It was in this year that the famed "Fandandrum Club" was formed, a club of men to promote sports, dances and amateur shows, and it took a man of vigor to stand the horseplay of the initiation to that club.

The Alfalfa Meal Mill, located south of town, about where Duche Almond Plant is now located,



finally began operations that fall.

The construction of a huge dam directly west of Newville which would put the pioneer town of Newville under a hundred feet of water, was projected. The dam was to be built by private capital and water 50,000 acres in southern Tehama county. The report of this dam persisted for several years, but Newville gradually gave up the ghost on its own accord and never appeared in any great danger of a watery grave.

Six hundred acres within the city limits were taken out of the Project and 600 acres adjacent to the project, odds and ends, added to fill this gap.

#### Fourth Street Fire

On June 19, 1911, the formation of a fire department for Orland was given a boost when fire early in the evening destroyed the business buildings on the west side of Fourth street, only the two-story Hotel Orland being saved by heroic work of volunteers who manned a bucket brigade.

The ashes were hardly cold when the demand came for a fire department. On October 7, 1911, the Orland Volunteer Fire Department was formed with Phil Noerager as chief, Willard Clark as foreman; Ed Wright as assistant foreman; M. T. Harrington as secretary, and J. N. Tibessart as treasurer. The new department held its first annual ball on March 15, 1912 in the Opera House with a turkey dinner at midnight in the Hotel Orland.

#### Charter Firemen

The charter members of the Orland Volunteer Fire Department were John Thomas, Tom Scribner, Magnus Peters, Charles E. Abbott, Phil Noerager, Willard

Clark, Harry DeLasaux, Ed. Wright, Gene Clifton, Harry Strawn, Avery McBain, Cleo Harelson, Ancil Harelson, C. O. Whiteside, Marcus Masterson, Fred Benton, M. T. Harrington, Clyde DeArmond, Art Kronsbein, and J. N. Tibessart.

Water for fighting fires and for domestic use was assured on April 3, 1912, when the contract for the municipal sewer and water system was awarded. The entire contract including the municipal tank and pumps amounted to \$37,668.

The demand of new settlers to the east of Orland resulted in the opening of Walker street that spring, Albert Papst donating a strip of land through the old college grounds for the purpose. It must be remembered that the city limits at that time extended out to the old Detour road and did not end at Woodward avenue as it does today. This land beyond Woodward was voted out a few years later at the request of the landowners who could not get government water while still within the town limits.

Orland High school was established in 1895, first holding forth in a vacant classroom of the old wooden grammar building, a room rented for \$7.00 a month. Frank S. Reager was the first principal with eighteen students. The first graduating class included Maude Hightower Monlux, Myrtle Brown Cobb, Hadassah Cleek Hamilton, Bertha Downen, George E. Mortenson, Delia Reager Reed, Nettie Scribner Murdock, Maude O'Hair Scribner and Ottis Cobb.

In 1903 a fifteen cent tax was levied and the three room wooden building located where the Mill St. School is now situated was built.





### New High School Needed

Agitation for a new high school building to take the place of the overcrowded one-story wooden building located where the Mill Street school is now located, got under way and the trustees having a half dozen sites offered for a new school campus, put the problem up to the voters at the April school election.

Four sites were on the ballot; 4 acres donated by Will Spence in the north part of town; the 10 acre site bordered by Yolo and East street; the Morrissey site south of the Reclamation office and the Papst 4-acre site part of the old college campus, at Woodward and Walker.

The battle was a bitter one but the Spence site, which is now the Orland High school campus, won out, probably because W. E. Spence donated the land. However the victory was not final as the trustees merely sought an expression of opinion, and this initial battle over the site ultimately proved to be just so much shadow boxing.

### Seek Carnegie Library

The Women's Improvement Club started the wheel rolling for funds from the Carnegie foundation for a library building; a project which finally culminated in the construction of the present library a half dozen years later. A Parent-Teachers Association was formed that spring with Mrs. J. T. Hulen as president.

The first stirring of an electric railroad up the valley caused considerable speculation and continued for a half dozen years but never got beyond the talking stage.

The Orland Hatchery, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Preston Simpson turned out 25,000 baby chicks

that year. The Orland Creamery out at the edge of town on the Newville road, operated by E. F. Hale, was taxed to capacity and talk of a concrete building in town to house the creamery, was heard, and ultimately became a fact but not for a number of years. The almond growers incorporated in June of 1912, controlling 200 acres of bearing almonds.

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### Chinaman Murdered

Orland had its first murder in years and the only one within the memory of most of the present residents of Orland on May 1, 1912. Mah Goon who ran a restaurant downtown but lived in the ramshackle Chinatown located on the west side of Highway 99W at about Tehama street, was murdered in a tong war. Two Chinamen were arrested, Kay Lee and Sam Sing, the latter later released for lack of evidence. Kay Lee was bound over to the superior court by the local justice court, and then freed when the wording of the commitment was found faulty.

A Grand Jury indictment brought Kay Lee back into court but the legal battles delayed the trial for six months. Finally in October a jury found Kay Lee innocent and the murderer of the Chinese restaurant owner was never brought to justice.

But because of that murder, a prominent Orland business man of today lost a lucrative job. Jos S. Erickson, Sr., at that time a student in Orland High, was night operator for the Sunset Telephone Company. Never having seen a dead man, let alone a dead Chinaman, young Erickson left the switchboard without an operator, while he traveled over to Chinatown to see the dead Chinaman.



Next morning, Erickson was out of a job, peace officers being unable to get the Sheriff's office over the vacated switchboard. Incidentally that "lucrative" job which Erickson lost paid the grand sum of \$22.50 a month for a ten hour night shift.

#### **Oil Well on Butte Ranch**

Oil as a possibility of wealth in Glenn county had its periodic outburst with oil excitement running high. In July, 1912, a drilling crew started work out at the Butte ranch, southwest of Orland. No one knows how deep this well was sunk, but the rig was hauled away overnight and the well capped and no one could get any information from the tightlipped crew.

The city fathers attempting to take care of the thousand and one troubles of a new town, had plenty of work on their hands. The sidewalks had been laid in the business section much against the wishes of some business men who battled against the destruction of the hodgepodge of shade trees which graced the area, including a row of black walnuts to the west of the present Graham Bros. market.

#### **City Fathers Have Troubles**

The city trustees had the job of straightening out streets in the various additions to Orland; the Harelson Addition, the Chapman Addition, the Papst Addition and the Hicks Addition. New streets were sought such as the extension of Sixth street, now the State highway, south to the city limits, of Fifth street from Swift to Tehama, of Tehama street from Fifth to the present highway.

The business men demanded a sprinkling wagon to keep the dust down in the business section but compromised with the wet-

ting down of the business streets twice a week with the fire hose.

Development went on at an unslacked pace in the Project. Acres were leveled, new families arrived, a new town "Domav," Bohemian for home, was projected at Malton Switch north of the creek, but never got off the drawing board.

The Orland boosters were concerned over the proposed State highway, little encouragement being given for the Westside highway out of the \$15 million bond issue which was expected to build a complete system of highways in the state for all time.

#### **Mills Orchards Planted**

A development of the huge acreage now known as Mills Orchards, eight miles east of Orland to oranges, pears and prunes was in the making and 1,000 acres of oranges were actually planted in the fall of 1912.

Mark L. Requa, Oakland capitalist, purchased the J. C. Hamilton ranch of 1100 acres, and started leveling for what ultimately became the Loam Ridge project, southeast of Orland, irrigated by deep wells.

The Murdock ranch lying west of Orland, but outside of the project, was purchased by Los Angeles men among whom were E. E. Martin and John J. Lachenmyer, both to play important parts in the Land of Orland in later years.

#### **21 Settlers On One Train**

Newcomers continued to flock to Orland and buy land. On Feb. 19th, 1912, 21 newcomers arrived on one train; the J. J. Spears family, Mrs. Velma Lane being a member of this family, the Ward Emery family, all from Illinois and the J. J. Lachenmyer family, also from Illinois, by the way of Southern California.





But there was a bit of a sour note in the air. East Park filled to the brim in the initial year, 1911-1912, an exceptionally wet year. But East Park was far from full in the two following years which were exceptionally dry years. While there had been plenty of stored water for the very limited acreage in the Project both of these dry years, it appeared certain that stored water would not be available when the entire Project of 14,000 acres needed water.

#### Feed Canal Is Planned

In March of 1913, the Reclamation Service undertook surveys of a feed canal some 13 miles in length to divert the waters of the main stream, Big Stony, into the East Park Lake. Frank S. Reager returning from a conference with Reclamation officials in Washington, stated that if such a canal were built, there was a good possibility of adding additional acres to the Project.

And so development went on apace as new settlers arrived and bought. A. E. Lindstrom, a retired North Dakota newspaper man, and Dan Sturm ordered three carloads of young orange trees for new groves. A three-day poultry show was held in Orland early in February, 1913.

But dire foreboding of things to come was the announcement that only 8,500 acre-feet of water was stored in East Park on Feb. 3rd.

#### New Bank For Orland

But big developments hit the town in 1913. The Masonic Lodge announced the purchase of the lot at the corner of Fourth and Colusa as the site of a Masonic Temple. A new bank, the First National Bank, backed by Southern California capital, was in the offering. Local shareholders in the new bank were Willard Clark,

John A. Scribner, W. L. Thompson, Frank S. Reager and George E. Wright. The Orland Creamery company was incorporated for \$40,000 and plans completed to build on Walker street on the site of the present Sego plant, with E. F. Hale moving his creamery equipment in from his small plant out on the Newville road. This was the granddaddy of the present Sego plant.

#### Battle Over School Site

Orland engaged in a merry war over the site of the proposed new high school. Bonds for a new building, totalling \$40,000 were voted on February 28, 1913 by the overwhelming margin of 326 to 25. Plans went forward for the new building until the board of trustees evidently under pressure, decided that the favorable vote on the Spence free tract was only an advisory vote.

Another vote was held on April 2, 1913 at which the Spence tract won again. Then on June 11th, as a result of petitions, another election was held and this time, the old site, the present location of the Mill Street Grammar School, won by a vote of 305 to 204.

The trustees were all set to build the high school on the Mill Street site, though they did not have deeds to the property then occupied by the Baptist church, when a bomb shell was dropped by A. E. Lindstrom, a newcomer, a retired editor. He obtained a restraining order claiming that the board had misrepresented the ownership of certain lots in the block including the Baptist church property.

A final election on the site of the new high school was held on October 28, 1913 and the Spence Site won out by a vote of 285 to 97. The following year, the elementary school by voting a



\$5,000 bond issue bought the old high school site and it became the location of the present Mill Street school.

### Build New High School

The contract was finally let for the new high school building in November of that year, the bid for what is now the main building, being \$39,550. Scores of high schools up and down the state were designed by the same architect, W. H. Weeks, and they all look as alike as a dozen peas in a pod. But each time the clever architect charged full fees for the master plan with a few minor changes.

Fred H. Neilson was the foreman for the contractors on the new building, this being his first job in Orland. Neilson remained after the job was completed and is still a resident of Orland.

Big news for Orland broke in the early part of 1913, when it was announced that the Masonic Temple Association would build a three-story concrete building at Fourth and Colusa with the new First National Bank, scheduled to open on May 1st, occupying the street floor.

The contract was let on the Temple in March but the three story building was cut to two, the cost of the new building to be \$13,300. Later the Masons went back to the three story building and ground was broken for the new building on June, 1913.

The First National Bank with E. E. Martin as president, Frank S. Reager as vice president and Jno. J. Flaherty as cashier, opened May 1st, in the small room now occupied by the restaurant adjoining the Orlando on Fourth street. One of those huge turret safes about the size of a washtub, stood in the window, to guard the funds of the new bank while officers waited impatiently the

completion of the new banking home in the Masonic Temple.

### New Stony Creek Bridge

Bonds had been voted by the county to the tune of \$450,000 for roads and bridges, but wrangling and legal red tape held up the letting of the contract for the muchly needed concrete bridge over Stony Creek, north of Orland. The contract was finally let in June, 1913, for \$115,652. A new building, the Bryant Building at Fourth and Walker got under construction that summer, the old wooden building being moved "temporarily" to the alley on Walker and there it still stands today. Work was also under way by W. H. Morrissey on the new theatre which still stands in its present location.

### Cornerstone Is Laid

The cornerstone of Orland's only three-story building, the Masonic Temple, was laid with proper Masonic rites, at an informal ceremony on August 7, 1913. In this cornerstone, the only one in the Orland business section, was placed a zinc box, made by C. E. Abbott, local business man and past Master, and in this box were placed Masonic papers and copies of Orland newspapers of that week.

Orland's new theatre, the last word in movie houses of that day, threw open its doors; ground was broken for the new spacious creamery on Walker street, 40 feet by 120 feet.

But all was not as merry as a wedding bell even though the real estate men were selling farms like hotcakes. During that season of 1913, 6,132 acres used Project water and the holdover at East Park was a bit too close for comfort; only 12,500 acre-feet.

### Feed Canal Contract Let

The Reclamation Service pushed the survey for the feed canal





and the diversion dam on Big Stony and on September 17th advertised for bids for this new construction. The contract was finally let in April, 1914, the additional construction to cost \$46,-386.80.

In the meantime, at the end of the irrigation season of 1913, the Water Users Association with the full consent of the Reclamation Service, voted 13,369 to 55, to add 6,000 acres to the Project. This action was taken in spite of two dry years in which East Park reservoir did not fill, but so great was the Orland optimism that it was mutually agreed that with the feed canal diverting storm waters from Big Stony back of the dam, there was no question of a more than ample water supply for this new total of 20,000 acres in the Project.

The lands added included some acreages north of Stony Creek, some southwest including a goodly share of Citrona Park and the Murdock tract, which had recently been bought for subdivision by the Los Angeles syndicate:

Changes in Orland came at a lightning speed the year the first World War broke out in Europe, but Orlanders were too busy building a new agricultural empire, to give more than a moment's notice to the tread of the Kaiser's marching troops into France. All that was too far away to worry about.

The First National Bank celebrated the first day of 1914 by moving into its spacious home in the Masonic Temple, quarters which has been a banking house since that day; the Bank of America which first gobbled up the Bank of Orland in 1928, and then the First National in 1933, now occupying the entire ground floor.

The new Presbyterian church with Rev. T. T. Fotheringhame as pastor, was dedicated on January 11, 1914. The same month the popular skating rink on Fourth street, converted over from a livery stable several years earlier, was torn down. Incidentally it was in this skating rink a few years earlier, that Frank S. Reager, Sr., enjoying a skating party after a Modern Woodmen meeting, tried roller skates for the first time in years and fell and broke his leg.

The Masons and Eastern Star held their first lodge meetings in the new Temple but formal dedication, a very impressive event, with the Worshipful Grand Master of California present, was not held until May 14th. Open House had been held a month earlier.

#### Ban Suggestive Dances

A tempest in a teapot, brewed following a dance and boiled over with the city fathers banning by ordinance all "suggestive" dances. Later they relented and lifted the ban on one dance, "the tango". This ancient ordinance is still on the books.

The Murdock subdivision was offered for sale, with the Orland Land Company, the seller, with offices in Southern California to bait prospects with cheap government water. 40,000 fruit trees, half of them citrus, were imported during that season and planted. An additional \$15,000 water and sewer bond issue for extension of the water and sewer lines was voted, 154 to 38. The town had a hard time selling these bonds, the state finally taking them as a last resort.

#### Wets Win By One Vote

And all this time a merry wet and dry fight went on in town, with mass meetings, signed letters and fireworks. The wets won the battle by one vote. Court action



followed but finally the "drys" admitted defeat and Orland stayed "wet".

Early in May, 1914, farmers of this end of the county with their diversified crops, and they were truly diversified in those early days of the Project, felt the need of expert advice and petitioned the Board of Supervisors for the establishment of the University Agricultural Extension Service. Taxpayers to the south part of the county, mostly dry farmers, had little enthusiasm for the new-fangled ideas, but somehow the Board was persuaded to take the necessary steps.

At that time the Extension Service worked entirely through the Farm Bureau with its community Farm Centers, and considerable inertia had to be overcome with a personal prod and threat of losing the service by B. F. Cocherson, top man at Berkeley, at a local mass meeting.

#### Extension Service For Glenn

Finally on March 1, 1915, the Extension Service became a reality with W. H. Heileman, who had been active in soil surveys and other work in the Project for the Reclamation Service, as the Farm Advisor. Heileman quickly sold his work to the diversified farmers and to many of the dry farmers.

The Extension Service was an unqualified success until under new personnel in the twenties when it fell on evil days. Due to a clash of this personnel with many farmers, the Extension Service was dumped out of the county in June, 1927, hook, line and sinker, with not a little hard feeling between those who realized what a properly conducted Extension Service could do for the agricultural life of the county, and those "die-hards" who had never been in sympathy with the

service; and considerable bitterness was shown by the top brass in Berkeley over the summary move.

#### Old Quarrels Forgotten

Not until 1949 in spite of repeated requests for the Extension Service in Glenn county, was the Service reestablished and then only after new and younger blood, both in Berkeley and in Glenn county, took over and forgot the hectic late twenties squabble.

The Extension Service under the able direction of Milton D. Miller and his able corps of assistants, has proven its worth to the county many fold since its reestablishment. Housed in offices in the County Building on Fifth street, the Extension Service serves efficiently and intelligently the agriculture area of the entire county giving service to practically every one of the 1600 farm units in the county, and all farm units in the county, and to all adult and teen agers of the farm population.

Orland's portion of the state highway system finally got under way in 1914, a strip from the city limits to Grapit. Of course the idea of completing the highway through town was not included in the statewide project. For years after the highway to the north and south of Orland was completed, motorists bumped over the very shoddy macadamized dusty road through Orland as through all other incorporated towns. Finally the top brass of the highway construction saw the error of their shortsighted policy and took over the highways within incorporated limits.

#### Grapit Is Manmade

No doubt newcomers often wonder about Grapit, that huge hole in the ground to the east of the highway, at the south edge





of the Project. Manmade entirely, this huge pit furnished practically all the ballast for the railroad when it was built up the valley in the seventies and eighties and continued to furnish gravel for the railroad until about 1908 when the steam shovels were moved to the bed of Stony Creek where they have been operating since that time. The building of the branch line at Wyo to Hamilton City gave them easy railroad access to the creek gravel.

It was during 1914 and 1915, that the folks of the Land of Orland had a front seat in the spectacular eruption of Mt. Lassen, the first eruption occurring on May 30, 1914, and continuing intermittently into 1915. The huge smoke plume with all the resemblance to the modern A bomb cloud, could be clearly seen from here. Of course few Orland folks motored into the Sierras over the twisting dirt road to Susanville to get a closeup view of the volcano.

#### **"The Village Blacksmith"**

There were two men in Orland, one of them still living, that could be inserted into this history of The Land of Orland anytime after 1907, for each one of them played an important part in the civic life of the community for years.

First, Harry Strawn, Orland's beloved "Village Blacksmith," who came to Orland to work for George E. Wright in 1907. Among the many accomplishments of Harry Strawn was an art that few men know today; the firing of anvils. At each and every celebration, starting with the assurance of the Orland Project in 1909, Harry has fired those anvils; at the jubilee, at the armistice and at the VE and VJ Days, and every year to inaugurate the annual Mothers' March for the March of Dimes.

Ed. L. Wright, superintendent of the water works, until his death, contributed mightily to Orland's fire fighting equipment in those early days, never missing an opportunity to preach the gospel of a pumper on the fire truck. Ed served in practically every capacity except Chief, while Harry has some kind of a record, having served efficiently as fire chief during fourteen years of his long residence in Orland. Ed died a number of years ago but Harry, "The Village Blacksmith," is ready at the drop of a hat to "fire the anvils" for any community celebration.

#### **Olives In The Foothills**

The boom of subdivision and land sales continued without a cloud to mar the enthusiasm. Wild schemes of subdivision constantly popped up, such as the subdivision of the Allen T. Moore ranch, now the Mallon ranch out at Floyd where Stony Creek swings westward north of Simpson bridge. Here were to be planted, according to the boosters, 6,000 acres of olives and sold in twenty and forty acre lots; olives of all things; olives which were a drug on the market at that time, and have never been proven in that area!

Farmers dissatisfied with the prices they were getting for their cream; for milk was all separated in those days by hand separators; at the established creamery, banded together in 1914 and 1915, and formed the Orland Cheese & Butter company, a cooperative affair, in a new building at the corner of Fifth and Tehama. The creamery opened on April 21, 1915 and boasted of two tons of butter in ten days.

#### **Cooperative Creamery**

The Orland Cheese & Butter had its ups and downs, making a neat profit some years and going into the red in other years.



Its career was finally ended when it was absorbed by the Golden State which had taken over Northern California Milk Producers the successor of the Orland Creamery Company, and which in turn was sold in 1949 to the Sego Milk Company, the present owners.

A master stroke in Orland's development was the proposal that the town buy for a park the entire block where the City Library is now located. The Women's Improvement Club had purchased the three lots on which the Library is now located. A bond issue of \$7,000 was proposed and deeds for the entire block, on which fortunately there were no homes, were placed in escrow. The bond election, held on March 2, 1916, carried by a vote of 238 to 79.

#### Orland's First Work Day

Then came the job of leveling the block and preparing it for a city park. A swale ran through the corner where the library is now located. A Work Day on December 3, 1916 was held. The entire town and country turned out to move dirt from the excavation for the basement of the old gym at Orland high, now the Music Room, and from the creek, to fill this swale. A big dinner was provided by the Improvement Club in Maple Hall for the workers and the job was done by sundown.

The planting of the park, started in 1917, was another long and at times discouraging job. Trees, planted according to the master plan provided by the State Department, did not thrive, and after trial and error, new varieties of trees were planted. The lawns were planted as fast as the limited city funds allowed, the job being in the hands of Orland's first park commission, Ralph W.

Guilford, J. R. Fotheringham and L. W. Wigmore.

#### Library Is Built

The present library, built with funds from the Carnegie Foundation was constructed in 1918, its building being delayed for a number of years in the vain hope of obtaining more than the \$8,000 allotted by the Foundation for Orland. The basement rooms served for years as the City Council rooms, until the present City Hall was available, and also was the meeting place of the Orland Women's Improvement Club as well as many other organizations.

#### Murder at Artois

Orland as well as the rest of Glenn county was thrown into a fever of excitement on the morning of February 14, 1916. Theodore Jensen, employee of the Rochdale store at Germantown, now Artois, stumbled into his home at Germantown with a lurid story of being wounded by a pistol shot and his companion, Warner Smith, also an employee of the same store, being shot to death just north of the eucalyptus grove, now the site of Blue Gum Lodge, by J. Vance Wilt of Orland. He had no sooner told his story and Sheriff Jack Bailey notified, when the southbound morning train crew found the dead body of Smith across the tracks. The biggest manhunt in the county's history was organized in a matter of minutes and the area for miles around Artois searched for the missing Wilt. A farm crew seeing a strange man west of the grove, gave the tip to Sheriff Bailey.

Six hours after the manhunt started, Wilt was discovered hiding in the tall weeds. Bailey singlehanded went in and brought the wanted man out though it was found that Wilt had a loaded pistol on his person.





Feeling ran high and talk of lynching resulted in Sheriff Bailey spiriting Wilt northward in the early evening hours to the safety of the county jail at Red Bluff.

### Wilt in Trouble Here

Wilt had come to Orland six years previously, buying the orange grove north of town where the Nelsen Furniture store now stands. A man in his thirties, he was well educated but rather erratic and a long period of domestic troubles ended in his wife obtaining a divorce.

Wilt reported several attempts of robbery at his home and also tried to commit suicide a couple of times. At the same time there was a wave of petty thefts and a couple of bold holdups in Orland, all of which after the murder of Smith, were laid to Wilt's door but never proven.

Jensen's wife was a sister of Mrs. Wilt's sister-in-law and the Jensens had been awarded the care of the youngest Wilt child by the court after the divorce. Smith was evidently a mere unfortunate bystander, having arrived from Willows by train late the previous night and stayed with the Jensens rather than walk to his place in the country.

### Shot in Cold Blood

Wilt, according to the testimony at the trial, early in the morning roused Smith. He was disguised and demanded that Jansen be aroused and go to the store and open the safe. All this at the point of a gun, Jensen having no idea at the time of the identity of the robber.

Jensen being unable to open the safe, the disguised Wilt marched the two down the railroad track to the grove and then without warning opened fire on them, instantly killing Smith and

nickering Jensen in the arm who fled in a zigzag fashion which probably saved his life. He ran, slipperless back to Germantown and spread the alarm.

Indicted for murder by a hastily summoned Grand Jury, Wilt made a valiant fight for his life, his attorney being W. T. Belieu, now superior judge, and the prosecution handled by Ben F. Geis, district attorney, and father of Duard Geis, prominent Willows attorney of today.

Wilt taking the stand told a very plausible story of Jansen being jealous of Smith, resenting the latter's attention to his wife, and that Jensen had asked Wilt to assist him in running Smith out of the county, and then shooting Smith in cold blood. However, details of his story were refuted by reputable witnesses and Wilt was convicted of first degree murder on March 24th and sentenced to be hanged at San Quentin by Judge William Finch on July 1, 1916.

### Hanged at San Quentin

However, the case was appealed as high as the Supreme Court, but the verdict stood and Wilt still maintaining his innocence, was hanged at San Quentin on February 9, 1917, almost a year to the day from the time of the cold blooded murder.

Nearly a year later, a cache of dynamite was found wrapped up in old newspapers dated about the time East Park was under construction, and where dynamite had been reported missing. Wilt had been working on the dam and the dynamite cache was found in Baraca Hall, adjoining the Baptist church of which Wilt had been a devout member. Of course public opinion connected the cache of dynamite with Wilt, along with most small and large crimes of



the period. But the mystery of the dynamite and its probable use was never solved.

### Construction Charge Set

Following a lengthy survey of the Project by Reclamation officials and a Board of Review; on May 31, 1916, the Construction Charge for the Project was officially fixed by the Secretary of the Interior at \$44.00 per acre, payable in annual instalments without interest in 20 years. Of course this period was extended time and again and the Construction Charges were upped to \$55.00 an acre when by mutual agreement, it was decided to concrete-line most of canals to stop seepage in 1917. Again the Construction Charges were boosted following the construction of Stony Gorge in the late twenties to \$120 an acre.

Orland's one big nursery of deciduous, citrus and nut trees, started several years earlier on the home place of the Murdock tract by J. H. Smith, was incorporated at this time with John L. Lachenmyer, Jno. J. Flaherty and Smith, and an ambitious plan for a big nursery was undertaken. This nursery was later bought and operated by Bill Simms until his death in the forties.

### High School Gym Built

The new high school gym was undertaken in a unique building plan. The gym was built largely by student labor, a concrete building, with the shop classes under the direction of H. H. Busse, doing most of the work.

The necessity of a gym, modern for those days, was brought forcibly to the attention of patrons of the local high school when the boys' basketball team won the Northern California High School Athletic League pennant in 1916.

On this team were "Dud" Mar-

tin, J. R. Fotheringhame, both of whom later became successful managers of branch banks; Marc Morrissey, successful insurance man of Sacramento; Kenneth Morrissey, who was killed in World War I and after whom the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post is named; Bob Aitkin, successful business man of Oregon; Arnold Faltings, prominent Orland farmer; and Jos. S. Erickson, Sr., well known Orland business man; "the basketball team which built Orland's first gym."

### Germ of County Fair

October 21, 1916 was a red letter day for the Land of Orland, though few who were here at that time realized just the significance of the ambitious showing of livestock numbering 70 dairy cows, 30 horses and 60 hogs at the ball grounds at the south end of town on that day.

Just an idea of showing and comparing livestock owned by project farmers; an idea hatched in the Farm Bureau. A couple of experts were imported from Davis Farm for the Saturday event. E. A. Kirk was in charge of hogs; Chris Myhre and W. G. Gurnett, of cattle; and S. W. Baugher, of horses. But 500 people turned out for the event and those sponsoring the one-day event realized they had the seed of something big.

During the following February, as a result of this one-day show, the Glenn County Agriculture & Livestock Association was launched for the purpose of putting on at Orland a three-day fair in the late fall.

James Mills Sr. was named president, E. A. Kirk, secretary and the directors were S. W. Baugher, Charles L. Leonard of Glenn, Roy Brownell, W. S. Guilford of Sacramento; W. G. Gurnett, C. A. Whitsett, Jno. J. Flaherty, W. E. Seearce, George E. Nygaard,





H. M. Kingwill, S. F. Williams and Chris Myhre.

### "Flaherty's Baby"

Mills unable to serve because of other duties, resigned later in the spring and Jno. J. Flaherty was named president, serving except for a few years, in that capacity until his sudden death in 1943. The Glenn County Fair became Flaherty's "baby" and it was due largely to his intelligent and untiring efforts that the Glenn County Fair of today is one of the outstanding fairs of the state.

The spirit of optimism which caught hold a half decade before, continued unabated through these "teen years" with new settlers arriving almost daily and the real estate operators reaping the harvest. Mark L. Requa started the complete development of Loam Ridge of which Anchorage Farm, his own home place to which he ultimately intended to retire, being set out in lemons, prunes, olives, oranges and almonds.

### Lutheran Church Formed

The First Lutheran Church of Orland had its beginnings in the homes of settlers of the Calumet district, northwest of Orland, known also as the Norwegian Colony and actually named Calumet as most of these farmers came from near Calumet, Michigan. Services were conducted by Rev. M. S. Holt, well known farmer of that area, but in 1902 the group organized as the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, the services being held in the Calumet school.

The House of Worship in Orland was built by private subscription on lots donated by the Ladies Aid, at A and Colusa, in 1915, being completely finished in 1932 and is now known as the

First Lutheran Church of Orland. In 1952 the church celebrated its 50th anniversary.

### Crop Report of 1916

A report of crop returns in 1916, only six years after water reached the dry acres of the Orland Project showed how far the Land of Orland had come in those six short years. The volume, insignificant in face of present day values, was astounding: 29,000 tons of alfalfa valued at \$220,000; 25,000 bushels of milo corn; 3,450 head of dairy cattle valued at \$232,000; other livestock valued at \$165,000; 800,000 pounds of butter from the two creameries; bank deposits reported at \$537,416; and over 1,000 acres of new orchards.

War clouds gathered early in 1917, but did not slow up Orland's optimism, which was channeled into war projects, though to most in the early part of 1917, war seemed a part of another world. Plans went forward for the first Glenn County Fair, a three day event to be held at the baseball park, and September 26th through 29th were set as the dates.

### New Rural Schools Built

Lake, Plaza and Lemon Home districts settled by newcomers, started agitation for new school buildings with community centers; the first of a rash of new school houses to dot the Project in the next few years; Lake, Lemon Home, Calumet, Murdock, Citrona Park and Walnut Grove.

The supervisors established at the insistence of the Land of Orland farmers, a horticulture inspection office with C. Hugh Wren as the first commissioner; a department continued to today and of which P. V. Harrigan is now head. Local Jersey breeders formed the first cattle club in the county, the Orland Jersey Cattle Club.



### Capay Rancho Settled

The huge Kraft ranch, renamed the Capay Rancho, was subdivided in 1916 and placed on the market by Southern California investors. W. H. Baymiller and E. R. Post were prominent in this very successful subdivision of 10,000 acres along the river northeast of Orland with headquarters in Orland.

The Orland Orange Growers Association shipped through the State Exchange twelve carloads of oranges. Orland's new grammar school was showing signs of splitting at the seams with 373 pupils enrolled, and talk of another new school building was in the air. A cow testing association was successfully launched. Orland though moving forward into the war years with little thought of war, was surely moving forward as a prosperous community; having little thought of the dark twenties ahead.

### Counterfeiter Is Caught

A strange story of counterfeiting and an even stranger climax broke in Orland on January 24, 1917. Federal agents swooped down and arrested Roy Butts, prominent young jeweler of Orland, and charged him with counterfeiting fifty cent pieces in his jewelry store located in the Hotel Orland.

Butts, in his late twenties, unmarried, was a member of a prominent family of Orland and the entire community was certain that some terrible blunder had been made. But young Butts confronted with the evidence, admitted his guilt and threw himself on the mercy of the hard-boiled federal judge. Only a few of the half dollars had actually been put into circulation.

Then came one of the most unexpected and merciful decisions ever rendered by a federal judge.

Butts was given a fatherly lecture, fined one dollar and sentenced to one day in jail. He served the one day and has since become an honorable and respected citizen in another part of the country.

### Jonnothan Griffith Dies

On January 8, 1917, Jonothan Griffith, pioneer citizen and the last of the three men to give Orland its name, died at the age of 81. A full military funeral was given the Civil War veteran with four of the surviving members of the GAR paying their last respects to their comrade.

But war which seemed so far away at the beginning of 1917, hit Orland during the following months as it hit every city and hamlet in the country. The call went out for more and more production of food stuffs and every possible acre was forced to yield its share; the Orland Chapter of the Red Cross was formed; rallies were held to sell Liberty Bonds; a Council of Defense was formed; Germantown changed its name to Artois, and a half dozen farmers to the west of town reported seeing an airplane during the late afternoon hours.

### Register For the Draft

June 5, 1917 came and with it, Registration Day for the draft. A dozen of Orland's younger men enlisted before that day and Dr. D. L. Martin left for medical duty with the army. The war had come to Orland!

But war did not slow up realty sales and the development of new farms, rather it increased the pace for the cry was for more production. New acres were leveled, new crops found, even a market was found for the surplus of California red onions the acreage of which had boomed to sizable proportions here a year or so earlier.

At this time, Hamilton City for many and various reasons,





some valid, decided to have a high school of its own, and split from the Orland High district, forming a district of the river country. A bond issue of \$20,000 was voted and, after a spirited battle, a site in the Mills Orchards lost out to the present site on the Chico-Orland highway.

While many of the younger men were either volunteering or answering the draft, plans for the first big Glenn County Fair went on without any suggestion that it should be abandoned on account of the war.

#### **Northerner Wrecks Tents**

September 29th was to be the opening day of the three-day event, but that opening day came to find the three tents, rented to house the exhibits, in shreds. One of the valley's famous northers descended on the fair grounds Sunday night, September 26th, and wrecked the tents.

Fainthearts were for calling it a day, but President Jno. J. Flaherty and his board of directors had sail makers up from San Francisco within twenty-four hours, mending the tents and installing entire new sections. One tent for the machinery was abandoned entirely and that exhibit placed in the open.

Seven days later, the first Glenn County Fair opened for three days and played to 6,210 visitors on the opening day. In spite of the postponement of a week, the fair was such a success that plans were immediately made in spite of war and north wind, for a seven day event in 1918.

The influence of the war uniform was felt that year in a widespread agitation for uniform dress for all girl students at Orland high, a middie blouse and blue skirt, but the plan never got beyond the talking point.

#### **Feeling Ran High**

War came close to Orland during those fall months. Some folks saw German spies under every bed and one minor official of the county was forced to resign and was placed in custody for pro-German remarks. Another group, members of the Quaker faith, were high pressured by public opinion, into purchasing their share of Liberty bonds.

The annual Christmas Eve community celebration was changed into a Red Cross Christmas Tree with patriotic addresses and a drive at which over \$2,000 for the Red Cross was raised. At this event, Orland's first service flag with sixty stars, was dedicated.

#### **Guards of Democracy**

The Guards of Democracy aimed to coordinate all war work was formed and no one dared to refuse to join the organization which had as its head, Willard Clark, who had no idea of how to pull punches when hunting down a German sympathizer.

Because of the increased demand for water on account of the war effort and the fact that East Park failed to fill that year, a water shortage in 1918 was felt. The Reclamation Service set about surveying for another possible dam site, favoring one above Elk Creek but let it be known that the new dam would be utilized for a second unit of 30,000 acres of the Orland Project.

#### **Survey For New Dam**

This second unit never got beyond the talking stage, but the damsite was ultimately utilized in 1926 to save the original Orland Project and assure it a certain water supply with the building of Stony Gorge dam on that site.

In the midst of the war, the Northern California Milk Produc-



ers gobbled up the Orland Creamery Company and enlarged the plant, being in turn gobbled up later by Golden State, the latter finally being taken over by Sego.

War came closer home as word came from Orland boys at the front; Herman Thode was reported wounded; Bob Aitken escaped unharmed when his boat was sunk off New York. The Orland Home Guards were formed with Jno. J. Flaherty as Captain, and J. E. Faltings as first lieutenant. The high school cadet corps drilled daily. In an effort to cut governmental expenses, the postoffice at Newville, oldest in the county, was closed.

But the Glenn County Fair with a decided war tone, opened on September 16th for a full six-day run, the top feature being the aerial acrobatics of a military plane from Mather Field, watched by a record crowd of 8,000.

### Flu Hits Orland

But a somber note crept over Orland in spite of indications that the first World War was dragging to a weary end. Spanish influenza hit Orland in the late fall as it hit every city, town and village. The schools were closed, the picture house was closed and everyone wore gauze masks in an effort to ward off the deadly germs. The flu took its toll of Orland folks; Mrs. T. J. Green, Martha Holt, F. J. Dearborn, Peter Oaks, Mrs. Chester Leonard, James C. Lucas, Carl Thomas Hicks, Mrs. John Sanford, Mrs. Garfield Kirkpatrick, John Richard, and four prominent business men, George Simmons, Gene Ehorn, Frank DeFreitas and Clyde DeArmond.

Orland was taken in by the false armistice of November 7th. The usual anvils were fired by Harry Strawn during the afternoon and were repeated when

word of the true armistice came on November 11th. But the celebration was overshadowed by the flu epidemic which slackened only after the first of the year.

Word had been received of the death in battle of Tommy A. Thompson, after whom the local Legion Post was named, and of Alfred J. Foster, also a Land of Orland boy, after whom the Willows Legion Post was named.

### Celebration Is Dropped

Plans in the making for months of an all-out celebration of the end of the war, were dropped on the advice of the health officer. A flareup of the flu in the early days of 1919 sent another scare into Orland, but the flareup did not reach epidemic proportions.

The community energy siphoned for a short eighteen months into war effort, was diverted as quickly to purely community projects. The Home Guard disbanded before they had even handled a rifle; the high school cadet corps continued to 1921 and then became a thing of the past; the Guards of Democracy became but a hollow shell; only the Orland Red Cross Chapter born of war days, continued uninterrupted to today.

The flood of newcomers slowed to a trickle during the latter months of the war, broke in never ending waves into the arms of the welcoming real estate men, and another contingent of home-seekers, many from Idaho this time, found their "Home in the West."

### Capay Rancho Settled

The Capay Rancho, settled by an extremely high class of newcomers, mostly with farming experience, settled down to improve and produce standard crops. The Capay Rancho Home Improvement Women's Club was formed and functions efficiently





today under the shorter name, Capay Rancho Women's Club.

With East Park, after a very shaky start, filled to the brim, the Orland Chamber of Commerce took on two big projects and by community team work, put both of them over.

One was permanent paving for the downtown streets, first agitated in February, 1919. This job took over two years to bring to realization over the protests of various and sundry property owners.

### Highway To Chico

The second job was of even greater magnitude; the inclusion in the additional state highway system for which bonds were to be voted by the State, a highway between Orland and Chico. In this battle before the top guns at Sacramento, the Orland delegation had the support and backing of influential citizens of Wil-lows, and the highway was finally routed on the present lines out Walker street and through the Mills Orchards to the Gian-ella bridge.

The building of the highway was delayed several years for the lack of the bridge across Stony Creek, but that was ultimately built, a right of way through Mills Orchards obtained and the Chico-Orland Highway, Route 32, became a part of the state system.

With the return of Orland youth from the European front and the training camps in increasing numbers, as the nation and Orland returned to "normal," wedding bells rang out in an increasingly larger number.

New settlers arrived, new crops were tried, new projects undertaken by enthusiastic Orland. Rural mail Route No. 2, serving the Lake district and Capay on a tri-weekly basis, was establish-

ed, becoming a daily service in September, 1920.

### Legion Post Organized

Orland service men sought a common meeting ground and a year and two days after the Armistice, the Tommy A. Thompson Post of the American Legion was formed here with Bob Aitkin as top man and Herman Thode as his chief assistant. The Auxiliary was formed the following May with Mrs. J. M. Leonard as president.

The hotel project was still very much alive and actually a stock company was formed by the Southern California promoters and subscriptions solicited, but fortunately wiser heads prevailed, though it is doubtful that they looked into the crystal ball and saw that the hotel business was soon to be pushed to one side by the modern motel.

A movement was started for the establishment of a kindergarten, but the arguments of the young parents were met with deaf ears by the school authorities. But the seed was planted there for our modern kindergarten, established in 1940 by the appeal of those young parents who would have been kindergarteners back in 1919.

### Schools Are Crowded

Perhaps the trustees were too busy attempting to find seats in the overcrowded elementary school where 426 youngsters enrolled that year. "The Bungalow," a two room wooden building erected a couple of years earlier on the school grounds over at the corner of Yolo and First, overflowed, and classes had to be held in the rundown Baraca Hall.

Seeing that a new building was the only solution of the crowded condition, the trustees called a bond election on January 31, 1920.



Some idea of the faith in the Land of Orland, even in this recession year of 1920, can be realized when the \$42,000 bond issue carried by a vote of 232 to 1.

### Mill St. School Built

The following July, the contract was let for the construction of the two-story main building, consisting of five rooms, an office and library across from the Mae L. Reager Building, facing Mill Street. This was the first unit of this building, a covered passageway leading from the doors which now open into the big auditorium, to the one-story old high school building which was utilized also for classrooms.

Fred H. Neilson was awarded the contract for \$42,102, exclusive of the heating equipment, the only school in town built by a local contractor.

High school bonds totalling \$22,000 were voted in late February by a vote of 85 to 2, but these bonds never were sold as the interest rate, six percent, brought no bidders. A high school PTA was formed that year when the high school came near losing its place on the university accredited list, but functioned only for a short time as D. M. Durst was wisely named principal that fall and literally lifted the high school back to its ancient and honorable position.

The 1919 Glenn County Fair, six days and nights, came and passed, but there was a somber note, a foreboding of the 1920 recession in the air. The top feature that year was the stunt of a woman jumping from an airplane and parachuting to earth. She landed with minor cuts and bruises, being slammed up against a parked car on the fair grounds. Less than a year later she was killed in a similar stunt in San

Francisco when her chute failed to open.

### Proceedings Faulty

The battle for paving went on apace with a reluctant board of trustees finally setting up a paving district whereby the property owner abutting the pavement, paid for the work to the middle of the street and the entire town assessed for the intersections and paving in front of the alleys.

The actual districts to be paved with Warrenite black base, included the following: Colusa from Sixth to First; Walker from Sixth to First; Fifth from Mill to a short distance beyond Tehama; Fourth from Mill to Swift; and Third from Colusa to Walker.

The battle appeared won when on June 28, 1920, the contract for the job was let to Clark & Henry at 24 cents a square foot, or \$139,257.60, but hopes were dashed when flaws were found in the proceedings and the contractors refused to sign.

### Shimmy Is Banned

The morals of the community were saved from disaster in early spring of 1920 when Marshal Harrelson, digging up the old ordinance on indecent dancing, banned an advertised "shimmy" dance in Orland.

The 1920 depression caught a proposed bond issue of \$60,000 for sewer and water extensions in a squeeze on April 20th, and the bonds were soundly beaten in a light vote by 76 to 70, and a tax for a municipal band trounced by 62 to 81.

East Park and Old Man Weather added to the gloom, there being only 18,050 acre-feet of water stored in the reservoir on April 21st, to water the sprawling acreage doubled in the war years.

The 1920 census was on and an interesting guessing contest as





to the population of Orland resulted in 53 estimates with an average of 1978; the actual count of noses showing 1582, an increase of nearly 90 percent in ten years.

#### Mormans Organize

In 1920, new settlers largely from Utah and Idaho, organized the first Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, (Mormon church) with J. I. Tolman as the first Branch President. The group met in the hall over the City Hall, then the Bank of Orland, some of the members being the families of Mitchell Hunt, Charles Edbert, Joseph Aldous, William Whitaker, Charles Bihler, J. W. Thompson, George Tracy and the Tolmans.

In 1934, the Orland Branch was incorporated in the new Ward formed in Corning with Stephen R. Angus named Bishop of the Ward which included Orland, Corning and Willows. In August 1944, the Orland Branch was organized as an independent branch of the Shasta District.

The Orland Chapel, built in 1950 at A and Walker street, now has a membership of approximately 100.

#### First Swimming Pool

Though money was tight, Orland folks still wanted their recreation and that spring the famous Orland Swimming Club was formed, some hundred families banding together and building a swimming pool out at Phil Bollinger's place on the hill a mile west of the present auction yards, using ditch water; the pool being open only to family members and accredited guests. Many an Orland parent of today learned to swim in that popular tank, which was the granddaddy of the present municipal pool in Vinsonhaler Park.

With the realization that East Park even with the feed canal could not assure a certain supply of stored water for Project lands, as shown by the scarcity in 1920, farmers banded together in neighborhood clubs in an effort to find the solution for the water shortage. Some favored the sinking of wells, others asking the Reclamation Service for another dam, one at Julian Rocks being favored.

#### Stony on a Rampage

But 1921 dispelled their fears for the rains came, storm after storm, until East Park sent water over the spillway early in January. During the one week of that storm, 3.16 inches of rain fell here and Stony Creek went on its greatest rampage since 1915.

Measurements in 1921-1922 taken at Simpson Bridge by the Reclamation officials, showed that sufficient water passed under that bridge in three months; November 54,000 acre-feet; December, 82,000 acre-feet, and January, over 90,000 acre-feet; to fill East Park reservoir four times. Such information made thinking water users ponder and put away for further reference these startling figures of storm waters running to waste, these figures coming into good use in the critical years a half decade away.

The Glenn County Fair in 1920 was still a six day affair, playing to an estimated 25,000 visitors. The only fly in the ointment was a freak baby tornado which ripped up a couple of smaller tents in the midst of the six-day run. A unique feature, in which plenty of dust must have been stirred up, was an imported airplane leading the school parade through the dusty streets of Orland and down the dusty highway to the fairgrounds.

#### Auxiliary Engine Installed

Fearing failure of power, which



at that time came into Orland only by a single route, and the resulting stalling of the municipal pumps in case of fire, the town voted 195 to 22, to install an auxiliary semi-diesel engine at the pump house at a cost of \$20,000, financed by a bond issue. This engine was installed and caused a drop in fire insurance rates, but never was brought into emergency use. It was finally sold when continuous power was assured from several directions and the new fire truck, with its own booster pump was added to the fire fighting equipment.

It was at this time that another reorganization of the Chamber of Commerce was held and it was decided to combine the Glenn County Fair office and the Chamber office with E. A. Kirk as secretary-manager of both organizations, a position he held until the depression of the thirties starved out both bodies.

#### Henry Hill Murdered

Orland's third murder occurred on November 26, 1920. Henry Hill, a business man of Orland for six years, operator of a taxicab, took a fare shortly before midnight supposedly to the SP gravel pit northeast of town. At the Stony Creek bridge, he was halted by two men who, with the fare in his car, held him up at the point of a gun. Hill putting up a one-sided fight, was hit over the head with the gun and then shot through the lung. The trio made off with his wallet, containing \$300, a diamond ring and other jewelry.

Hill, found an hour later by a passing motorist, was brought to town, given first aid and then rushed to San Francisco, where he died of a skull fracture four days later. No trace was ever found of the three bandits, their auto tracks being lost at the Sacramento river bridge.

Thomas Jefferson Hicks, resident of Orland since the early eighties, city trustee and former high school trustee, as well as a prominent business man, died on January 11, 1920, one of the few pioneers of the early days of Orland living at that time.

#### Kadota Fig Boom

The boom for Kadota figs, which was to solve all the difficulties of the Orland farmer, hit that spring with W. Sam Clarke, the Moses of the new industry. A forty-acre nursery of Kadota fig cuttings was set out in the Murdock tract, and folks were to become wealthy on the new industry.

Today scattered here and there in the Project are these Kadota fig orchards, reminders of another false rainbow. True, the trees bore heavily; a fig cannery was established and made good for a time, then went bankrupt. True, during the last war, Kadota figs were sold at a premium to Andy Hodge, who made and lost a young fortune on them. But Kadota figs were not the economic solution of Orland farmers' difficulties.

A. N. Burch, project manager for nearly a decade, resigned in 1921 and R. C. E. Weber was named, filling this important position in the long series of lean years for nearly two decades.

#### Dedicate New Church

Orland added a new church at this time, one which was destined to become one of the largest in the community. The Swedish church since renamed the Orland Evangelical Free church, was dedicated on June 19, 1921, the new edifice, since remodeled and added to, replacing the old wooden building which the congregation had outgrown.

Minor changes occurred during this year; the portion of Orland





east of Woodward avenue was voted out at the request of the property owners so that they could get project water. An agriculture course under the Smith-Hughes Act, was added at Orland high that fall. Two homes on Bungalow Row burned to the ground in a spectacular fire when a 60,000 volt wire fell onto the lines leading into the homes.

### Motor-Driven Fire Truck

Orland's first motor-driven fire truck was delivered to the Orland Volunteer Fire Department on June 9, 1921, a ton and a half Reo; the last word in those days in fire fighting equipment, capable of carrying all the fire hose belonging to the town and more too. However, hose and fire truck were useless if the water supply in the municipal mains failed for the new truck had no pumper such as the modern fire equipment. But the new Reo was the pride and joy of the Firemen and a special stall was laid off for a quick getaway in case of fire, in Charlie Nock's Garage.

### E. B. Kesselring Dies

A month later, on June 25th, a personal loss was felt by every resident of Orland when word came of the death of E. B. Kesselring, genial hotel host and active in every community effort. Resident of Orland almost since the first load of gravel was hauled to build the town, Emmanuel B. Kesselring with his long flowing black beard was an institution. He came to the boom town of St. John in 1861.

Kesselring evidently getting the fever of farm land boom, had traded his Hotel Royal, which he had built but a decade before, for an almond orchard south of town, but E. B. was never happy over the deal, missing the town contacts of half a century.

On the morning of June 25th, he was found dead on the doorstep of his farm home, the victim of a rifle bullet. Whether it was self-inflicted or an accident was never clearly determined though the coroner's jury brought in a verdict of accidental death.

Less than a week later, another of Orland's beloved citizens passed away. Dr. T. T. Fotheringhame, founder of the Orland Presbyterian church, and a man held in the highest esteem, died at his home in Orland.

### Pavement Battle Still On

The long drawn out and often seemingly hopeless battle for paving in Orland dragged its weary way through trustees' meetings, citizens' meetings and the columns of the two newspapers, the Orland Register and the Orland Unit, both newspapers continually advocating action.

Postponements, faulty legal procedure, bids considered too high, and just plain stalling by less ardent supporters of the program, who leaned on the crutch of the 1920 recession to delay the project.

At last on August 10, 1921, the bid for paving of the area originally designated, was awarded to the Warren Bros. Construction Company; their bid of \$150,072.30 the lowest of four submitted. Tom Martin, local cement contractor, was awarded the sub-contract for the curbs and gutters.

### Pavement Celebration

Actual pavement of the designated area got under way and was completed in May, 1922. Orland always ready for a celebration put on its best bib and tucker and threw a big street party on May 11th to celebrate the paving job. An auto parade with thirty decorated cars, an afternoon ball game and the first



street dance was enjoyed by an estimated 3000 people.

It was a long hard battle, one that seemed hopeless at times, but one which justified itself in the blocks of fine Warrenite pavement throughout the business section, doing yeoman duty today for truck weights unthought of in those days when trucks were a rarity.

### **Chain Bank Eyes Orland**

About this time came the first rumor of the possibility of a new financial giant entering the local field. The Bank of Italy, now known as the Bank of America, was gobbling up country banks up and down the state by the dozen, and at this time came the rumor that the young financial giant was looking with hungry eyes on both of the local independent banking institutions.

This rumor persisted continuously but it was not until six years later that the rumor became a fact and the Bank of Orland was first gobbled up, and then at the depth of the depression in 1933, the First National Bank went the way of so many independent banks of the state.

### **Local Bankers Make Good**

Of the employees of these two independent banks, it is interesting to note that seven of them went higher in the ranks of the new chain bank: George A. Barceloux, E. M. King, J. R. Fotheringham and General Cornelius, of the Bank of Orland; Jno. J. Flaherty, Emerson (Dud) Martin and Roscoe Mapes of the First National, these seven becoming branch managers of Bank of America banks in Orland or other cities.

The Fifth Glenn County Fair, now a fixture of the Land of Orland, held forth for six days in 1921, opening on September

19th. The feature of that fair was the newly inaugurated Kennel Show, when dogs, registered and otherwise, were shown for the first time. But the Kennel Show did not catch on too well and was scratched from programs of later years. Folks who attended the Fair in those years, recall with enjoyment the free food demonstrations with generous samples of goodies at every booth. But the overall attendance was down from the previous year for the pocketbooks of many folks were a bit pinched by the recession year and the lack of markets for Orland produce.

### **George Wright at the Fairs**

Those who attended the Fairs in those "Golden Twenties" will recall the youngster hoisted up onto the piano bench of the piano displays under the big top, and playing by ear with the gusto of a finished artist, giving a one-boy concert by the hour. This youngster was George Wright, son of Mrs Lulu Wright and John C. Wright, who later studied organ in Sacramento, San Francisco and New York, and is now a topnotcher in Hollywood, after playing for years for Paramount in New York. Young George brought the pipe organ out of retirement by his very clever interpretations. He is the grandson of the late George E. Wright, and nephew of Mrs. Florence Wright Leonard and Mrs. Velma Spears Lane.

A project which met with some success but not the success heralded by its founders was the establishment at this time of five-acre farms out in the Loam Ridge tract; farms small enough for their owners to operate and still hold part or fulltime jobs in town.

### **Urge Iron Canyon Project**

High in newspaper headlines





at this time was the proposed Iron Canyon Project, of which W. A. Beard was the top booster. Iron Canyon above Red Bluff was to be the site of a huge dam to water dry acres in the Sacramento valley with stored waters of the Sacramento. Huge canals were to be dug down each side of the valley, the highline canal passing a mile and a half west of Orland.

Iron Canyon Dam was never built, but the agitation did force attention on the Sacramento canyon and brought about the larger project, the Central Valley Project, with its Shasta Dam in our day.

#### Highway Tree Planting

A project conceived in good faith by those who had no realization of the possible hazards to life, limb and automobiles, came to fruition on January 20, 1922. All Orland closed shop on the bitterest coldest day of the year, to plant 800 black walnut trees along the recently completed state highway from Grapit to the Tehama county line. The only redeeming feature of this ill-conceived project was the piping hot goose stew served the workers at noon in Maple Hall by the Women's Improvement Club.

#### Just Another Dream

Another project which held the limelight off and on for a half dozen years and consumed barrels of newspaper ink was the proposed Elk Creek road. This road was to strike southwest from west of the present Simpson bridge across Stony Creek in the foothills, travel through the Brownell ranch, climb over Julian Rocks near the present Grindstone Indian reservation and tap the rich Elk Creek country for Orland.

Endless sessions, endless stalling, endless debates built only a

road on paper and finally it joined other dreams such as the huge dam at Newville, the electric railroad up the valley and the \$100,000 hotel for Orland.

A spirit of optimism akin to that of the early days of the Project was apparent in the spring of 1922 when a \$30,000 bond issue for the construction of the present high school annex, carried by a vote of 194 to 18. In June the contract for this third building on the high school campus was let, the price being \$37,-777.

But there was a foreboding of uncertainty in the air. While East Park spilled water over the crescent spillway late in March of 1922, two previous years, 18-19 and 19-20, were dry years and East Park failed to fill both years.

#### Seek New Dam Site

Reclamation engineers were busy taking soundings at every available dam site up and down Stony. A dam at the site just above Elk Creek loomed as a possible solution. The work of the engineers at that time resulted in the ultimate construction of Stony Gorge dam on that site less than a half decade later; a dam not to irrigate additional acres but to save the thirsty orchards and alfalfa fields of the distressed Orland Project.

But the winter of 1921 and 1922 were wet winters and water users, as the rains fell, cooled toward any additional stored waters for the Orland project, though the Association had underwritten the dam survey to the tune of \$10,000 during those years of drought.

#### Julian Rocks Favored

The final survey was completed and showed that solid footings were possible at Julian Rocks and that sufficient water could be



stored behind a dam at that point to water 25,000 acres. The water users at their annual meeting in February, 1923, expressed their full confidence in the supply possible at East Park dam, turning down the golden opportunity of additional storage at Julian Rocks by a vote of 20 to 1.

Perhaps the estimated cost of this additional dam, \$76.50 an acre, along with the heavy winter rains was a strong factor in this decision.

Only a few years later, these same water users along with business men of Orland went with hat in hand begging for additional water willing to pay any price to save the Orland Project; but that was only after several dry winters with East Park and its feed canal entirely inadequate to assure an ample supply of irrigation water.

#### Seek New Unit to Project

With the Project desiring no part in the Julian Rocks plan, Orland boosters through the Chamber of Commerce, undertook an intensive campaign to sign up 25,000 acres to the south and southwest of the present Project to be irrigated with the water stored back of the proposed Julian Rocks dam. Enthusiasm ran at fever pitch for a time, but the dry farmers looked on the whole idea with a "Missouri" eye and the entire project died a slow death, especially when the construction charges were estimated at \$157.50 per acre.

The idea of impounding water by huge dams was in the air. The Marshall plan, the forerunner of the Central Valley Project, was constantly in the news, though considered visionary by most practical men.

#### Samson Project Is Urged

A project nearer home was the Samson project, put forward by W. H. Samson, Corning supervi-

sor, a plan of special interest as the granddaddy of the combined Trinity River Project and the Sacramento Canals Project.

Samson would divert the flow of the Trinity River through the mountains, utilizing the falling waters for several power plants, dump it into the Sacramento, and then divert it at the present site of the Red Bluff Dam of the Canals Project and irrigate close to 100,000 acres along the present route of the Tehama-Glenn-Colusa Canal of the Canals Project, at an estimated cost of construction of \$31.63 per acre. Of course the Samson Plan never got beyond the talking stage but no doubt data obtained by the engineers at that time was used in the present studies of the projects now under consideration or construction.

#### Revive Cow Testing

Farmers feeling a bit more secure with ample water, in the summer of 1922, revived the Glenn County Cow Testing Association, which had lapsed six years previously, with Peter Kasak, Kirby Clarke, M. G. Haigh and L. F. Dado on the board, and signed up 600 cows.

The sixth annual Glenn County Fair opened on September 22nd, for its six-day run with a record attendance due partly to more prosperous times but more to ideal weather. The school parade of 5000 youngsters was a big feature that year as was Homecoming Day on Saturday. The directors toyed with the idea of keeping the fair open on Sunday the following year, but public opinion ruled this plan out in no time.

#### Politics In Public Eye

Orland was kneedeep in politics that fall with two favorite sons opposing each other in the district attorney's battle. H. W.





McGowan, Orland attorney, elected district attorney four years previously was up for reelection. Opposing him was C. I. Baker, another young Orland attorney, associated with R. M. Rankin who later became superior judge. The race was a torrid one with considerable political mud, McGowan winning out by 224 votes of the 3600 votes cast. "Wave" Kesselring that year made an unsuccessful run for sheriff.

An institution almost forgotten today, came into being that year, a Junior Chamber of Commerce, the forerunner of the successful Boosters Club of later years. With twenty charter members, the organization included younger citizens of both sexes, and was to be a sort of an auxiliary of the senior Chamber. Art Askeland was president; Jean Byron, vice; Golda Hulen, secretary; and Beulah Leonard, treasurer. The new organization did function for a time but finally went to seed and was never revived under that name.

#### Joe James Dies

Joe James, believed to be Orland's first citizen, died on December 2, 1922, at his home at the south of town where the Cottage Inn is now located. Joe James was born in 1833 and came to California in 1851. He and his bride settled in Newville in 1857, but a few years later moved to the barren plains of Orland where he spent the remainder of his life. Many and varied were the tales of early California, of Indian wars and lusty days told by genial Joe James.

Rabbit drives became almost a social function that winter for jackrabbits were eating up young trees as fast as they were planted.

#### Rabbit Drives Held

The first was held in the Westside and Citrona Park area on a

bitter cold day two days after Christmas. The turnout was small and it was repeated on New Year's Day, all business houses closing, of course, for an event like a rabbit drive. Over 1600 jackrabbits were clubbed to death and shipped to the markets in San Francisco where doubtlessly they went into the making of "chicken" tamales.

On the following Washington's birthday, Lake and Capay staged another drive with a big feed for the army of hunters at the Lake school and over 1000 rabbits were piled high at the school for shipment to the market.

Turkeys were fast becoming a major crop in the Land of Orland, shipments being made at that time, of course, only during the holiday season. Eighty-two tons of turkeys were shipped that year and the price of 35 cents a pound brought joy to the growers.

#### Origin of County Building

Probably newcomers to Orland often wonder just how the present County Building at Fifth and Swift streets came into being. Back in January, 1923, Grant & Goldstein, the Ford dealer, had this huge building built as the Ford headquarters for Orland. Later it passed into the hands of the El Claro Oil Company which was going to make everybody rich with its oil well out on the Masterson place, a well which was spudded in with top flight oratory by Governor James Rolph, but proved to be a dry hole. A decade or so ago, the unused garage was bought for a song by the county and made the headquarters of county offices in Orland.

The Sacramento Valley League which now functions in the valley had its forerunner in a league of exactly the same name organized in 1923 with six



teams, Woodland, Arbuckle, Dunningan, Colusa, Willows and Orland. For years Orland had played independent ball but really got league fever at that time, and has never been content with independent baseball since that day.

### Football in the Limelight

Football caught the public eye in those years and has kept its place in the sun though the Orland High team lost in 1922 to the justly celebrated Willows High team by a score of 63 to 3, Spence Lowden with a field goal, putting Orland on the scoreboard. Some salve to the losers' wounds was given when Willows, feeling their oats, took on Berkeley High, and were trounced by a score of 80 to 0. These were the days when the Lowdens were in all high athletic events; first Spence; then Harry; then Mac; and finally Byron. Incidentally it was this time that Fred Lowden picked off the plum as postmaster, succeeding J. N. Tibessart, who in turn had taken the job from Clyde DeArmond.

### Folks From 34 States

Greenwood Grove, the picnic spot for generations, sang its swan song that year as folks with new cars sought cooler and more interesting spots for such events. A huge community picnic, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Improvement Club was held on May 26th. It was an all day event with the recently organized Orland Municipal Band making its first outdoor appearance, a tug-of-war, races for the kids, a baseball game and a dance at the fairgrounds as the evening climax. It is interesting to note that each person was asked to register and it was found that there were Orland folks' present from 34 states and seven foreign nations.

All of which gives somewhat of an idea of Orland's cosmopolitan population.

The new Orland Municipal Band, nursed to full vigor by its founder, Dr. C. C. Bihler, put on a minstrel show that spring. Carl B. Hoag was Interlocutor; Mae Neilson as Aunt Jemima, one of the end "men"; J. J. Cornwall, Jean Bryon and Carl Franke, the other cutups for the event, held in the high school study hall, the only available auditorium in town at that time.

### George Nygaard Sells Out

That year marked the voluntary withdrawal from the local realty field, which he had dominated for a decade, of George E. Nygaard. He sold his business, lock stock and barrel to Jos S. Erickson and J. A. Wickland and shaking the dust of Orland which had so generously feathered his financial nest, moved to Southern California.

You who have driven past Orland's four well-kept cemeteries with their green lawns, have no idea of an Orland cemetery of the early twenties. Foxtail, weeds and trash littered them. On May 23, 1924, Orland always ready for any kind of a community event, turned out en masse, and gave the cemeteries a spring cleanup; focusing the attention of taxpayers on the neglected burying places, and leading to the formation of the present cemetery districts.

### Business Men of Orland

A partial list of the business men of those early twenties reveals that mighty few of them are still carrying on today. Many of them you will be able to place, others will have escaped your memory entirely:

George E. Wright, C. E. Abbott, Horace Hinton, W. Sam Clarke, C. W. Davis, J. A. Wickland, Sr.,





Frank McGrogan, Jos S. Erickson, Sr., Chris Myhre, M. T. Harrington, William Chaney, F. Lofgren, P. K. Hicks, A. Vereschagin, Charlie Fengler, J. W. Rhodes, Frank Broscombe.

Dr. G. E. Rawlins, Dr. E. W. Boyens, Dr. T. H. Brown, Dr. J. D. Edmundson, Dr. S. Igllick, A. B. Campbell, William Smithousen, J. H. Roberts, E. J. Falk, W. P. McCubbin, Allen T. Moore, E. A. Kirk, J. A. Blickfeldt, Dr. C. E. Struthers; H. M. Keene, Dr. H. W. Hand, F. C. Vinsonhaler, Chet Vaughn, Fred Lowden, Everett J. Schmidt, Harry Strawn.

Wade Hightower, Ed. Thode, Charlie Thode, J. B. Hazelton, Herman Thode, Guy DeArmond, A. R. Frame, Peter Richter, Ed. Codromac, W. E. McKee, J. B. Helland, Bill O'Donovan, Otto Bostrom, Gus Utz, Mrs. R. Green, Ira Mecum, L. W. Wigmore, Walter Reinhart, R. Green.

Mrs. E. V. Seidel, R. M. Rankin, Dr. C. C. Bihler, C. I. Baker, Charlie King, Gerald Hill, John Johansen, Jacob Marts, W. E. Scearce, John Bucke, Gus E. Franke, Ruddle Grant, Walter Goldstein, George Sturm, George Nygaard, Tom Green, I. Mendolwitz, Carl B. Hoag, Edgar M. King, Dud Martin, Jno. J. Flaherty, George Barceloux, E. E. Martin, J. R. Fotheringham, Bill Simms, Carl Mayhew, Jim Monroe, Jack Maxon, Jack McMahon, Mrs. Jos. Sperlich, J. J. Donnelly, Charlie Harelson, J. A. Moran, B. A. Rider, Ord Leachman, A. Carlson, Dick Terrill, Merrill Silver, "Phat" Allen, Ed. Wright, Roscoe Mapes, General Cornelius, Willard Clark, Frank S. Reager, Sr., Louie Johnson, W. H. Macy.

#### Orange Growers Incorporated

The year 1923 ended on a high note with little forebodings of the black year ahead. The Orange Growers incorporated, built their

own packing plant and that year shipped 19 carloads of packed oranges; Dr. M. A. Sayler shipped two tons of honey; the almond growers shipped ten carloads of almonds and 72,000 pounds of turkeys went to the holiday tables of the nation from Orland.

#### Martha Hale An Orland Girl

Orland has sent forth into the world of the professions, art, music and the stage, its full share of talented young men and women. But none deserve more credit than the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Hale, Martha. Martha, one of four children of this family, was born without arms but considered this no handicap at all. Taught by a mother, who would not let her daughter be ridden with an inferiority complex, Martha led a normal childhood, entered the local schools with her age group, using her skilful feet to do the duties of her missing hands.

A special desk was made for Martha and she wrote with her toes a specimen of penmanship which would shame the average person of today. Always near the top of her classes she at one time not only led her class but the entire county in scholarship.

Martha, a perfect normal girl in every way except for the arms she never knew, graduated from Orland high school, completed a difficult course at the University of California, did special research work there; then married and raised a normal healthy family doing all her own housework and is happy today in her home in Berkeley.

#### Albert Papst Dies

One of Orland's oldest citizens died in August of that year, Albert Papst, GAR veteran. Papst came to Orland from St. John in



1878, built Orland's flour mill, and was in business here until 1888 when he moved to the Papst ranch at the Buttes. He returned to Orland out in the Papst addition in 1910. His widow, a native daughter of the Land of Orland, one of the Hambrights after whom Hambright creek was named, died in Orland only two years ago.

Orland was given a scare in September of 1923 when word came from the Coast Range that Jos. S. Erickson, Sr., was lost while on a hunting trip with Al Wickland, Henning Erickson and Otto Bostrom. A posse of 30 rushed to the mountains in nine cars only to find that Erickson had been found, utterly exhausted after 36 hours without water and food, having lost his way back to the camp.

#### Fire in Business Section

The same month, September 11th, Orland firemen were unable to save the ancient wooden business building on Walker, located where Hills and Foley are now located. The plumbing shop of Frank McGrogan and the tailoring shop of J. B. Helland were completely destroyed. This block remained vacant for years except for the "temporary" root beer stand which did business at the alley for years.

The 1923 Glenn County Fair, the seventh, held forth for six days and nights, the crowds not being as large as usual; just another fair with no outstanding features. The attendance was good but not exceptional for money was tight and there was a lack of the usual Orland optimism in the air. The Orland Project had seen families arrive with high hopes, only to be replaced by other families, as prices continued at a low ebb and markets could not be found for Orland produce.

There was a feeling of despair in the air, a foreboding of dire things to come.

#### Orland Golf Club Formed

Yet tired business men and some farmers were caught up in the golf fever which was rampant in the valley, and in February of black 1924 as farmers scanned the skies for long overdue rains, a group banded together and formed the Orland Golf and Country Club, with thirty-nine charter property members; bought 100 acres of rolling hill land west of the Murdock school, improved it, and enjoyed the game of golf for a decade, come good times or bad. Today the surviving members still own the land, but few of the golfers of the late twenties play any more, but lease the property to the more recent Orland Golf Club, the members of which were toddlers when the first green was built.

Orland Boy Scouts which had had a precarious existence up to this time, joined that year with other towns to form the Mt. Lassen Area Council, which is functioning in a mighty healthy manner today.

#### Would Take Over Project

But Orland water users grumbled over the high operation and maintenance costs and a few demanded that the Project be taken over and operated locally. The debate over this issue became bitter when at the annual water users' meeting, it was found that only 12,000 acre feet of water was stored in East Park, a quarter of the lake's capacity.

Finally a committee of ten, business men and water users was named to probe the possibility of taking over the Project.

Late in the spring of 1924, the committee reported that it would be unwise at that time for the





water users to attempt to go it on their own, especially in the face of the water shortage for no aid could be expected from the Reclamation Service, if they severed connections with the federal government.

The spring rains with the resultant floods which might have eased the situation failed to materialize. East Park was not much more than a mudhole. At best only 8,000 acre-feet was available for summer irrigation and the natural flow of creek water for the irrigation which started in March was but eight percent of normal.

#### 1924 Project's Dark Year

1924 was indeed the dark year for the Orland Project! Young trees had to be watered by tank wagons with water hauled from the municipal wells; alfalfa fields burned up in the summer sun; dairy herds were sold for a song; homes were abandoned for lack of water. The total rainfall for the season was only 6.25 at East Park and little more in Orland.

Desperate water users sent a committee to confer with Reclamation Commissioner Elwood Mead, not in the hope of getting water for the season of 1924, but for future years, realizing at last that the storage supply at East Park even with the feed canal was not a sure supply; and additional storage must be obtained somehow.

The committee, composed by R. C. E. Weber, Project manager, Charles Templeton, C. L. Lillingston, Willard Clark and George Sturm, got plenty of sympathy but no action from Commissioner Mead. He rightly pointed out that the Reclamation Service while morally obligated, was not legally obligated, and that it was powerless to build dams without the

consent of Congress for Congress held the purse strings.

#### Summer of Despair

The summer of 1924 in Orland was a summer of despair. Congress if it heard the plea of Orland, would move at a snail's pace, and Orland other than its own Congressmen and officials of the Service, had no one in Washington to lead its battle for relief.

But aid did come and from an unexpected and powerful source. Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, was a week end guest of his lifelong friend, Mark L. Requa, owner and developer of a large portion of the Loam Ridge tract. The two were guests at the home of Mrs. E. A. Hardy, manager of the Requa interests here, and it was at her suggestion that a conference was arranged with Herbert Hoover, who only four years later was to become President.

#### Aid From Herbert Hoover

Mr. Hoover had been taken on a tour of the project and saw at first hand the parched alfalfa fields, the young orchards dying for want of water and the pitiful plight of the Orland farmers through no fault of their own.

That conference, a most informal affair in the packing house of Anchorage Farm between a delegation of Orland water users and business men and Mr. Hoover, Mr. Requa and Mrs. Hardy, brought the first gleam of hope to Orland. Sitting on packing crates, the group laid the cards before the future President and he in turn asked scores of questions getting at the root of the whole tangled chain of events which had brought the Orland Project to its lowest ebb.

Mr. Hoover gave no assurance of certain relief but promised to



confer with Secretary of the Interior Work and the Reclamation officials and add his weight to the Project's battle. Consequent events, which occurred with lightning speed, indicate that at this informal conference, the Project had gained a powerful and enthusiastic ally in the inner circles of the Administration at Washington.

### Clarence Lea Leads Campaign

Immediately following this conference another staunch ally was added to the battle. Congressman Clarence F. Lea came to Orland and with Mark L. Requa, attended a citizens' meeting of water users and obtained at first hand, complete details of the dark picture of the Orland Project. From that day until final action by President Coolidge, Congressman Lea led the battle in Washington with a sure firm hand, keeping constantly in touch with the men here in charge of the local front.

A postcard straw ballot was ordered and the returns showed that nearly 95 percent of the water users favored the construction of an additional dam, the stored waters of which would be for the exclusive use of the Orland Project, and that no additional acreage should be added to cut down the costs.

### Sturm and Weber Direct Battle

Two Orland men led the local campaign in an intelligent and admirable manner; George W. Sturm, president of the Water Users' Association, and R. C. E. Weber, Project Manager. Late in August they brought Congressman Lea back to Orland for two days during which he toured the Project, talked with farmers, visited East Park Dam with its mudhole which should have been a vast lake of water; inspected the proposed damsites, and returned to Washington with ample

ammunition to wage Orland's battle in Congress.

### Three Plans Submitted

The Reclamation Bureau officials were most cooperative and in October of that year laid three workable plans before the water users; a dam at Julian Rocks, impounding 26,000 acre feet, a dam at Stony Gorge, impounding a slightly higher number of acre-feet; and a larger dam at Stony Gorge impounding 50,000 acre feet. The cost of the larger Stony Gorge dam was estimated at \$1,058,000, considerably less than the smaller dam at Julian Rocks. This larger dam, it was estimated would add to the existing construction charge the amount of \$52.50 per acre, and was favored by the water users.

No time was lost in Washington in spite of Teapot Dome scandal probes. On January 20, 1925, the Bureau of Budgets approved the sum of \$50,000 toward the dam construction and Orland had won handily the first skirmish.

### Stony Gorge Fate In Doubt

Then came a sudden and critical reversal by the act of a well intentioned but unwise group in Orland. Secretary Work, whose support for funds for the dam was imperative, on his tour of western projects, scheduled a visit in Orland for a conference with the local water users' directors.

Unfortunately the trip schedule placed Secretary Work in Orland on a Sunday, and Easter Sunday at that! The officers of the Christian Men's League, without consulting the rest of the group, sent a caustic wire to Work telling him in no uncertain terms that his visit to Orland on Easter Sunday would not be welcomed.

Work immediately cancelled his





stop here and bypassed Orland. The fate of the proposed Stony Gorge dam hung by a very thin thread for a time.

Only prompt action by President George Sturm and Project Manager R. C. E. Weber and considerable wire pulling, was the damage undone. Feeling ran high against the originators of the telegram and many bitter words passed.

#### President Coolidge Signs Bill

But on January 8, 1926, through the efforts of Congressman Lea and Commissioner Mead, \$635,000 for the construction of Stony Gorge was included in the appropriation bill and on May 18th, a date which should be considered a red letter day for the Land of Orland, President Coolidge signed this bill which made Stony Gorge Dam a certainty.

No time was lost as all the plans had been completed. On August 18, 1926, bids from sixteen contractors for the construction of the Stony Gorge Dam, which would double the water supply of the Orland Project, were opened. In October the contract was let to the Amberson Construction company for \$518,904, the government furnishing all materials going into the dam.

#### Work Starts

Preliminary work started on the dam that fall and on May 3, 1927, at a huge community celebration at the damsite, sponsored by the Orland Chamber of Commerce and the Water Users Association, the first concrete was poured. George W. Sturm and R. C. E. Weber mixed the concrete and Dr. Elwood Mead, poured; these three men who were in the vanguard of the battle for Orland's future, rightly sharing the honor. A bronze plate commemorating the event was sunk

in the concrete and later when the dam was finished placed on the parapet at the west portion of the dam. There countless hundreds since that day have seen it and wondered how it all came about.

But while the battle for a certain water supply for the Orland Project was being fought and won, folks in Orland carried on in their usual optimistic fashion, few doubting the big future ahead for town and Project.

A tax of 10 cents to finance the town band carried with the greatest of ease, 110 to 52; a new rural mail route, Route 3, serving the area to the west and south of Orland was inaugurated; the 1924 Glenn County Fair was held on schedule, "bigger and better than ever," with a boxing card under the direction of Dr. T. H. Brown, the big attraction; in October, the rains came and by Water Users' Day in February the spillway at East Park went into action, the first time in two years. No, Orland folks never lost faith in Orland during that black year.

Three of Orland's pioneers passed away that fall and winter. Dave Brown, who came to Orland in 1877 and served as Orland's supervisor for sixteen years and incidentally was a political power in Glenn county; John Mehl, beloved shoemaker in Orland for many, many years; and Ash Christian, developer of fine orchards who had called Orland his home since 1877.

#### Postoffice Moves

The Orland Postoffice moved in June, 1925, into its new home at Fourth and Colusa, where for over a quarter of a century, it remained until its recent move to new quarters on Walker street. The Orland Register the same month moved into its own building on Walker street and is still



on the job next door to the present postoffice.

A hornet's nest was stirred up early in 1925 when an attempt was made to route the state highway through town, right down Fourth street, but somehow the top brass just couldn't see crossing the railroad twice to clutter up the main street of town with highway traffic.

#### Sam Reid Case

Glenn county at that time had a problem on its hands, a problem that brought it nationwide publicity in Sam Reid of Orland, the so-called "alimony martyr." Reid refused to pay \$40 a month to his divorced wife for the care of their daughter and went to jail. He let his hair and whiskers grow, got into all the metropolitan newspapers; had sob sisters write up his life and apparently thoroughly enjoyed it all.

The Grand Jury had him hauled into court on an insanity charge, but Sam doublecrossed them by appearing clean shaven and nattily dressed in a fine blue suit. The case dragged on with Reid as an unwelcomed guest of the county for over four years until Legion friends finally took over and straightened out the affair.

#### Kandy Korner Burns

Orland came near burning up on the night of August 20, 1925 when the old landmark, the Kandy Korner, a relic of the days of wooden buildings, located at the corner of Fifth and Walker, went up in flames. The fire threatened the entire block and the heat broke plate glass windows in the Hicks building across Walker. Operated by Mr. and Mrs. Josef Sperlich, the Kandy Korner was a favorite soft drink spot, and its place has never quite been filled in Orland since that night.

The Glenn County Fair of

that year, 1925, was the fair looked back upon as the fair of fairs in the long list of fairs. Celebrating the seventy-fifth birthday of California, the 1925 Glenn County Fair was like no other fair before or since.

#### Whiskerino Club

The Orland Whiskerino Club was formed and all the male population grew whiskers; a carload of forty-niner costumes for men and women was imported from San Francisco, and the fair turned back the pages of history seventy five years. The Whiskerinos put on the parade; they lynched a couple of horse thieves; they tried Jno. J. Flaherty, fair president, for failing to grow whiskers with Roy Heard as Judge; Attorney H. W. McGowan in charge of the prosecution and Judge Claude Purkitt as the attorney for the defense. Flaherty was acquitted and a real lynching was narrowly headed off by cooler heads.

The Whiskerinos brought the entire membership of the Whiskerino Camp No. 1 from Sacramento to install the Orland Camp and the Artois Camp with Judge Hart of the Appellate Court as installing officer.

The fair had its usual paid entertainers but few folks paid much attention to them when the Whiskerinos held forth and they held forth in full forty-niner costumes all week making the 1925 Glenn County Fair the outstanding fair for fun in the long list of fairs.

#### Highway Arch Built

About this time the well known Arch across the highway north of town where the main irrigation ditch crosses, was built through the efforts of Ira Mecum and C. A. Pendleton, financed by private subscription and some aid from the city.





The First Christian church of Orland, organized in 1925 by four families at the home of W. W. Allen, east of Orland, met in a temporary Tabernacle at A and Walker for a time until the new church home, built in 1938 and 1939, was formally dedicated on the same site in February, 1939, George Lobdell of Chico giving the dedicatory address. The church free of debt, has a membership of over eighty at the present time.

Orland, always ready for a community event, staged a huge community picnic in April, 1926, every available car being used to transport folks to East Park for the day, Orland had another day of fun on June 8th when a real circus played Orland for one day, giving Orland youngsters their first view of a three ring circus, of elephants and bareback riding.

#### Exchange Club Formed

That year the first service club was formed in Orland with the establishment of the Orland Exchange Club of twenty members with Dr. Dale L. Martin as the first president.

Penney's came to Orland in the spring of 1927, the building which Penney's still occupy, being built by Sturm Bros. for the chain store.

Orland had another murder that year, 1926, when in August Peter Piazza shot his brother, Ignacious, southeast of town, the culmination of a family quarrel of long standing. Piazza was caught at Red Bluff, tried in November and the jury stood 11 to 1 for conviction. He was tried again and convicted and finally given a life sentence.

The Whiskerinos attempted to duplicate their success of the previous year at the 1926 Fair but never reached such heights. How-

ever the big success of that Fair was the Bathing Beauty Revue, sponsored by the new Exchange Club, prominent Orland business men being the contestants in most fetching of bathing suits. The Golden Apple, the prize, was awarded to Louie Johnson who appeared with his two small offspring, young Louie and his sister, Jean.

#### High School Teachers Strike

Orland High teachers along with all high school teachers of the county went on the famous school strike that November, all three schools closing for a week over a long drawn out row with Ed. Ball, county treasurer, who kept the county in an uproar for years over his actions as "watch-dog of the treasury"; a row too long and complicated to give in detail here.

A new citizen arrived in Orland that year when Charles K. Price of Williams, was named principal of the local elementary school on November 30, 1926; and has continued as an educational force and civic leader to the present time.

The band and recreation ten cent tax was voted in June of 1927 as a permanent city tax and continues to this day financing a portion of the present park and recreation activities. The vote was 122 to 30.

#### Firehouse Fund Started

Few of the folks of Orland who attended the dedication of Orland's fine new Firehouse a bit over a year ago realized that the seed was planted for that new home for the firemen back in 1927. A. B. Sanford, fire chief of the department at that time, died on July 18th and was given due honors by his comrades. Less than ten days later, his widow handed the Fire Department a



substantial check, stating that it was the wish of "A. B." though not richly endowed with worldly wealth, that the check be the starter of a building fund for a permanent home for the Firemen. And from that modest offering, interest in a permanent home was kindled resulting finally in the modern structure of today.

Two other deaths were noted that fall; Dr. M. A. Sayler, retired physician, known as the "bee man," who spent eighteen years in active participation in the building of Orland; and W. H. Sale, county clerk of Glenn county, since its formation in 1891; he being succeeded by his genial son, W. B. (Jerry) Sale, who still holds the office. Two county clerks in sixty years!

#### Polio Cancels 1927 Fair

Plans were complete for the 1927 Glenn County Fair when Orland and the entire county was hit by an epidemic of infantile paralysis, the worst the Land of Orland had experienced up to that time. Aileen Flaherty, older daughter of President Flaherty of the Fair, was hardest hit; Marvin Leifried was also stricken.

Just days before the fair was to open, on the advice of state and local health officers, the 1927 event was cancelled at no little monetary loss to the association.

#### Midwinter Fair Held

But the Glenn County Fair would not be downed. In the dead of winter, December 8th, 9th and 10th, a Midwinter Fair featuring citrus fruits was staged downtown with a huge tent on South Fourth Street and the Mecum Garage, now the Poultry Producers, pressed into service. The unique show was a good advertising stunt, being written up in the metropolitan newspapers. It was this year that an exceptionally fine showing of turkeys was

included. During this fair, the Sacramento Valley Regional Citizens Council held their meetings here with delegates from twenty-one counties.

In the fall of 1927, September 4th, one of the most beloved and active women in Orland died; Mrs. Anna Kesselring, who had made her home in the Land of Orland since as a small girl, she arrived with her two sisters, by a long journey around the Horn to make her home with her uncle, Martin Reager.

#### First Pheasants Planted

That fall saw the first planting of pheasants in the Land of Orland when on October 21st, 140 pheasants were released along Hambright creek. Those who took part in this release could hardly envision the pheasant "industry" of today when every acre in the county where water and proper cover can be had, can boast its pheasants.

The long anticipated invasion of Orland by the Bank of Italy, later the Bank of America, came about shortly before Christmas that year when it gobbled up Orland's first banking institution, the Bank of Orland; and only delaying until the depth of the depression, 1933, to complete the job and gather in the First National Bank.

Orland was fast recovering from the near-death blow of the drought year of 1924; Purity established a store at Fourth and Walker early in 1928; Safeway followed six months later, and Sproules in December. Electroliers were placed in the business section, 52 of them at a cost of \$8,685.

#### Recover From Black Year

Project Manager R. C. E. Weber in his annual report showed that the Land of Orland had made a rapid and satisfactory come-





back from the black year of 1924. And best of all, East Park spilled over in April and Stony Gorge Dam was rapidly rising from the creek bed above Elk Creek.

But a tragic note marred this picture. Cedric King, Orland youth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie King, on July 23rd fell to his death down the unfinished concrete spillway at Stony Gorge, on which he was working.

Stony Gorge was finished in record time, early enough to catch the winter floods of 1928-1929. On October 27th, another celebration was held, the dedication of the dam; all the formal ceremonies being held at the fairgrounds in Orland with an auto caravan to the dam in the morning. Clarence F. Lea, who had such an important part in obtaining the funds from Congress, was the guest of honor and the main speaker. The big event in which 3000 took part, ended in a huge barbecue. Certainly Orland had reason to celebrate, certain of a sure water supply for the Project.

#### Near Tragedy at School

Just after Christmas, a near tragedy occurred at the Mission school, when without warning, half of the plaster ceiling fell on a roomful of fourth graders. Four youngsters were slightly injured, the Nock twins, Donna Flaherty and Wanda Wikoff. The presence of mind of the teacher, Mary Forbes, now Mary Yearian, prevented a real panic, and greater injuries.

Incidentally in spite of low prices and other such difficulties, the grammar school was splitting at its seams and on March 8, 1929, the district voted another bond issue, \$49,000, by a vote of 314 to 45, for an addition of seven rooms and the huge auditorium

to the Main Building. The contract was let that Spring and fortunately the building was completed before the 1929 crash.

#### Foursquare Church Formed

Following a revival meeting here in 1926 conducted by Everett Parrott, an undenominational church was formed by about forty Orland people. In 1928 the group joined the Foursquare church organization with Rev. Anna Lowe Walker as their first Foursquare minister. The church was actually founded by Mrs. Rosa Rose Jasper, still prominent in the organization, and the Woods brothers, owners at that time of the Woods Kadota fig orchards. Charter members still living are Mrs. Jasper, her daughter, Mrs. Rose Brown, her son, Joseph Jasper, Juliana and Walter Coe.

A fine church home has been erected at the corner of Eighth and Tehama streets and the Foursquare church is one of the strongest in Orland.

#### Late Frost Hits Almonds

Frost made a late visit to the Land of Orland that spring, hitting with killing force on April 5th, at a time when danger of frost was supposed to be past. The almond and apricot crops were practically wiped out but only minor damage was done to the orange groves.

Orland held its first and last Sacramento Valley Music Festival that year with 3000 young musicians here; the only time the spring event had been moved away from Chico.

The Orland Exchange Club decided to become a local, severing connections with the national organization and remained a local until it affiliated with Kiwanis International in 1930 with Ralph W. Guilford as the first Kiwanis president.



### **Newville Wiped Out by Fire**

Newville, only a shell of its pioneer glory, became a ghost town in reality when fire swept through the town on July 22nd, wiping out the general store, a service station and two homes. Only those Chinese Trees of Heaven remain to indicate that once a lusty pioneer town held forth on the site.

Three prominent men died that fall; Sam Ehorn, pioneer rancher of the Lake district who was one of the staunch advocates of the Orland Project back in the early part of the century; Sam Chaney, beloved former superintendent of schools; and Jim Snell, a comparatively newcomer to Orland who had retired here from his cattle ranches.

Governor C. C. Young was the top attraction at the 1929 Fair, speaking at length on the very dry subject "State Taxes" at the valleywide dinner meeting of the service clubs at the fair grounds. Loud speakers were used for the first time at this fair, which drew a crowd of 10,366 for the six days.

### **Lely Tree Is Dedicated**

Oyer in the City Park in front of the Orland library is a huge deodar, planted early in 1930 in memory of one of Orland's best beloved citizens, Carl Lely, who died on December 17 1929; a man who counted his friends in legion and his enemies by the minus sign; nurseryman extraordinary, and friend of everything worthwhile for the Land of Orland.

That all was not well in Orland is shown by the formation of the Orland Welfare Council, an organization to take care of the needy of this end of the county. While the rest of the nation built up the false prosperity of the Golden Twenties, Orland saw little of prosperous times during that decade.

### **"Mother" Brownell Dies**

Two more old timers passed away that spring; Mrs. I. W. Brownell, pioneer who came as a bride from Boston by way of Panama in 1862 and settled in African Valley, building up with her husband, the huge Brownell holdings; W. A. (Del) Greenwood, active in Orland affairs his entire life.

Orland folks saw a new wealth other than irrigated acres as the Johnson No 1 oil well spudded in out near the North Diversion Dam and oil stocks were snapped up. But Johnson No 1 or its successors never proved to be commercial wells and the oil stock was tucked away in safe deposit boxes and chalked up to experience.

### **Memorial Hall Assured**

The war veterans and all Orland realized a long cherished dream and the end of a five year effort when the contract was let in the spring of 1929, for the Orland Memorial Hall at a cost of \$46,500, financed by the county.

Another venture which might have added to Orland wealth was buried deep in the stock crash of late 1929. 17,000 pecan trees were to be planted on a huge acreage east of the Stony Creek bridge, north of the Chico-Orland highway, but like the hemp mill projected for Orland five years earlier, never got out of the promotion stage.

### **Merry School Row at High**

As a diversion that year and for a couple of years later, Orland put on a merry school row over the high school principal, when W. S. Faucett, successor to D. M. Durst who had resigned as principal, was relieved of his position by a split vote of the board. H. E. Stevenson lasted but one year and was succeeded by W. H. Hudson. The rift over the squabble was never healed until H. O. Wil-





liams was named to replace Hudson in 1932, and held that position until he resigned in 1947.

Orland clubwomen held their first flower show on May 21, 1929 in the basement of the library, repeating with bigger annual flower shows to this day.

East Park and Stony Gorge both overflowed on March 18, 1929, the first time both dams had been filled. The long drawn out suit over water rights along Stony Creek, in which there were 625 named, was amicably settled by the federal courts. E. T. Erikson was named watermaster to administer the water allotments along the creek, a job he did so well that he won friends for the Land of Orland in every instance.

#### Into the Valley of Depression

1929! 1930! The Land of Orland appeared at last in late 1929 to have passed through every possible sort of crisis; water shortage, poor markets, bad crops, crops which did not prove themselves; everything seemed to be a part of the past with the future spreading out in an orderly fashion of increasing prosperity. Earlier settlers who knew little of farming or lacked proper finances for such pioneer work, gave way to more sturdy settlers. The future was bright indeed.

Late 1929 came and went; the stock crash which shook the financial centers of the East passed without hardly a ripple in Orland. While other folks had been living high in the Golden Twenties, Orland folks had seen their own dark days, reaping none of the prosperity of the easy money of those mad years. The dams overflowed that year; folks were feeling a bit of easy money that summer and fall. Water was so plentiful that 60,000 acre feet remained in the two reservoirs after the irrigation season.

But the pinch began to be felt in 1930. After weeks of bitter agitation, the special road tax in the county was cut to the bone; twenty-nine needy families were given a Christmas feed that year by the Orland Welfare Council.

#### 1930 Fair Goes in the Red

The Glenn County Fair of that year went deep into the red, \$2400, in spite of the fact that Governor-Elect Rolph was the guest speaker at the All-Service Club dinner, with Warren Woodson as the Emcee of the event.

A miniature golf course was opened on the lot where Purity Store is now located. The sponsors were Art Askeland, Art Campbell and Jno J. Flaherty, and they just about lost their shirts on the venture so tight had money become.

#### Depression Pinch Is On

A million pound almond crop was shipped with rock bottom prices; 300 tons of olives were processed by the new Olive Growers association, of which J. E. Faltings was manager, and found an indifferent market. A project to plant 1000 acres of cantaloupe here never got out of the talking stage. Water users set up a cry to take over the project. The depression of the thirties began to pinch in Orland.

In fact in October so black was the fair picture that a postcard ballot was taken as to the future fairs, but the returns were overwhelming for a 1931 Fair. Then the fair management went out with hat in hand in a countywide drive to obtain donations to wipe out the 1930 deficit. They didn't succeed but in a six week campaign raised \$1700 and decided that a fair of some sort would be held in 1931.

#### Form 42nd Agriculture District

It was at this time that a master stroke conceived in the fertile



brain of Jno. J. Flaherty, was made. Taking advantage of a comparatively new law, the fair association organized as the 42nd Agriculture District of California, embracing all of Glenn county. The entire affair slid through like greased lightning and Governor Rolph named the first Board of Directors of the new fair district on May 24th: Jno. J. Flaherty, Dr. T. H. Brown, L. W. Wigmore, C. A. Whitsett, George W. Sturm, J. N. Cook, Mrs. Edna Knight and Dr. W. H. Walker, the latter two from Willows.

This being before the days of parimutuel, the directors with the aid of their solons in Sacramento, slipped through the legislature an appropriation of \$5,000 a year over a two year period for the Glenn County Fair from state funds, and Governor Rolph signed this bill on June 9, 1931, giving life for a time at least to the Glenn County Fair.

It was in 1931 that the Orland Kiwanis Club underwrote the program of diphtheria shots for all beginning pupils in the local school; a program urged by Dr. S. E. Coffey, which has been carried on annually to today, and has given Orland a record of zero in diphtheria cases for a quarter of a century.

Citrona Park school, shrinking in school attendance voted in January to unionize with Orland, a move later followed by Murdock, Lemon Home, Black Butte, Newville, Walnut Grove, Emigrant and Calumet.

#### Memorial Hall Dedicated

Orland dedicated its fine Memorial Hall with pomp and ceremony on June 9, 1931. Over 1500 attended the impressive dedication at which John C. Wright was Emcee and James K. Fisk, state officer of the American Legion, was the guest speaker. The

building was presented by Judge R. M. Rankin and accepted by Herman Thode for the Tommy A. Thompson Post.

Orland's Legion Drum and Bugle Corps vied with corps of Red Bluff, Corning and Chico in a downtown event that evening; an open initiation was held by the Legion in the new hall and the big event ended with a Grand Ball.

But there was a somber note underlying every event, every celebration. The great Depression, slow in reaching the West and especially the rural communities, began to make itself felt.

#### Depression Hits Orland

A bit over twenty years ago! You who are in your twenties or even you in your thirties, have but the faintest recollection of those dark days. You cannot recall ten and twenty-five cent an hour jobs, when there were jobs; you cannot recall rock bottom prices for every farm commodity and often no market at any price. The stagnation of a nation's economic life; the bitter days of bank foreclosures; the inability to borrow money at any price; all this, you cannot remember or if you can, recall it only dimly. But the oldsters recall those bitter days when the Depression crept over the Land of Orland reaching into every home and farm.

Farmers headed by the Grange which did yeoman service stormed the county seat demanding lower taxes; delinquencies mounted to twenty percent and better; assessment rolls dropped an equal amount; teachers' salaries were cut; school treasuries were bare with not enough to pay teachers' salaries; water users could not meet the government obligations. Such were but the bare high-





lights of black 1931, of blacker 1932 and even into late 1933.

But life went on in some attempt at normal in the Land of Orland. Orland folks watched as Mt. Lassen put on a puny man-made eruption in celebration of the dedication of Lassen Volcanic National Park on July 25, 1931.

#### Queen Contest at Fair

The Glenn County Fair management made a noble effort to pump life into the event that year. A Queen contest of which L. W. Wigmore was chairman, sucked in out-of-town support for the event by naming a Red Bluff girl, Farryll Dean Luning, as Queen of the Fair with a dozen attendants, each from a valley town. Orland was represented by Ophelia Rawlins and Louise Oatman. Billy Thompson was the crown bearer and Ed Lely and Donnis Johnson, the train bearers.

Governor Rolph came from Sacramento to crown Queen Farryll in the huge amusement tent. During all the pomp and ceremony, a bit of humor crept into the coronation. As Governor Rolph in his best manner called out "Hear Ye; Hear Ye!" in opening the ceremony; a prize bull in the exhibit stall adjoining, let out a bellow in reply which could have been heard as far distant as Kirkwood, and came near upsetting the entire dignity of the coronation rites.

A dozen added attractions, most of them volunteer; an All Service Club show, four drum and bugle corps, a free tent show; made a brave attempt to bolster the gate, but Old Man Depression was the ticket taker that year; the first show put on by the new 42nd Agriculture District.

Orland joined in an unusual celebration on July 28, 1931, marking the 100th birthday of "Aunt Fannie", Mrs. Frances M.

Price, who came to California and to the Newville section by covered wagon, crossing the plains in 1851. Less than a year later, May 2, 1932, "Aunt Fanny" Price died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. H. Masterson, after being bedridden for twenty years. Mrs. Price was the grandmother of Frank Masterson and the late Kendrick Masterson.

#### Leading Citizens Die

Three other deaths that year ended the useful careers of three prominent citizens active in the early days of the project. Harry E. DeLasaux, leader in a dozen civic ventures and founder of the famous Fandandrum Club, died at his home in San Francisco. Dr. Samuel Iglick, country physician of the old style, leader in civic affairs for a quarter of a century, died following an accident in his line of duty. The 72-year old physician answering a night call, missed a turn on the winding road south of St. John. Though badly injured, he walked to a neighboring farm house and was taken to see the patient he had been called for, then collapsed and was rushed to Woodland and died four days later of the injuries he had received in the accident. Mrs. Ruth Mason Scribner, "Aunt Ruth" died in January of '32, breaking one of the few remaining links with an Orland of the pioneer days; "Aunt Ruth," whose Irish wit, sparkled every gathering! Once when asked to talk on Orland's pioneer families, Aunt Ruth replied: "Goodness me, if I told just half what I know, half of our first families would not be speaking to the other half!"

#### Rolph Spread the Oil

All Orland motored out west of town that fall to see the beginnings of a new wealth which



would lick the Depression; black gold from the Masterson No 1 well, which incidentally never flowed. Governor Rolph gave the dedication address and surely if there had been oil in that hole, it would have gushed forth at his oratory.

A three-day Orange Show in the dead of winter in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, brought nice words but no higher prices from metropolitan newspapers. The Firemen in March held a three-day event, including a minstrel show, the annual ball and a convention of all firemen of the valley. Fifty-five carloads of oranges were shipped that winter, the trees and fruit escaping a killing frost following a snow storm on December 4th.

Tom Green, local merchant dropped dead while crossing Fourth street; George Clark, rancher for years out Newville way and trustee of Orland High for years, died. He was the father of Mrs. Frank Masterson.

### **Bulb Farm Started**

W. H. Kingsley planned to make the Land of Orland the nurseryman's paradise with the planting of vast field of gladiolus bulbs and Dutch iris bulbs west of Orland near the edge of the project. But Kingsley was killed in an auto accident a few years later, and the bulb farm dwindled to another false rainbow.

There were plenty of events that fall, winter and spring; entertainments and celebrations, but it was all like whistling as one passed the graveyard. Old Man Depression never quit looking over the shoulder of every adult citizen of the Land of Orland.

Butterfat, 15 cents a pound; demand for a slash of 25 percent in county salaries, the court house janitor cut to \$1500 a year; the

jail matron to \$1300; a demand that all branch libraries be abolished; 25 to 40 percent of the taxes delinquent; teachers' salaries slashed an average of twelve percent, one district, 40 percent to \$700 a year; a soup kitchen established by Rev. Paul Johnson in downtown Orland; turkeys sold at 16 cents a pound; fruit pickers paid 15 cents an hour averaging \$45 a month! Just a few highlights of those dark days of 1932 and 1933.

### **Water Users Desperate**

Water users facing bankruptcy, battled for relief with an autocratic Dr. Mead as head of the Reclamation demanding cash on the hogshead. Water users passing resolutions of censuring Mead; who in turn, miffed at the affront, cancelled a fact finding probe.

Seeking a way out, the censure resolution was withdrawn; a compromise drawn up by M. G. Haigh spreading out the Construction Charges over 30 years and repayments on a graduated scale was tentatively accepted at a special meeting in Sacramento by Dr. Mead.

### **Bureau Not Popular**

Friction developed within the board of directors with Guy O. Williams advancing a more liberal plan and Secretary Wilbur accepting a modified Haigh compromise. Five directors refusing to run for reelection; compromise, wrangles, bitter words, as the water users sought some way out of the dilemma not of their own making and the Reclamation Bureau appearing as the Simon Legree ready to foreclose the mortgage on the entire Project. It was in these dark days that the Reclamation Service sunk to its lowest in local public opinion as the harassed water users bat-





tled for their economic life; battling as was most of the nation for mere survival.

Farmers through the Grange stormed the Board of Supervisors with twenty-eight demands for lower taxes, and in the midst of all this appeared A. P. Gianini, head of the Bank of Italy, to declare on a visit to Orland in the dark days of the fall of 1932, that the worst of the depression was over!

### Swan Song for the Fair

The Glenn County Fair was held that fall 1932 despite the protest of many former boosters, but it was the swan song of the fair for a full nine years. The Whiskerinos tried to pump life into the event with a huge torchlight opening parade; drum and bugle corps marched and counter-marched.

Besides the depression a pall of gloom pervaded the fairgrounds that year. Bill O'Donovan, popular Orland business man for 15 years, died the day before the fair opened, the result of injuries received south of Red Bluff while returning with the Whiskerino fair caravan touring the north end of the valley.

In October, ridden with unpaid bills, facing an uncertain future, the fair directors called it a day and cancelled the 1933 Fair. They liquidated the Fair's few assets, the grounds going to the J. L. Stuart company for unpaid tent rentals. But the directors wisely kept the organization intact, awaiting brighter days.

### Boosters Club Formed

Born of depression days, the Orland Boosters Club, a big factor in the decade ahead, came into being in October. Frank Harrington was the first president and the following spring the new club planted out 400 silver maples as parking trees in the

residence district, and later sponsored the first Easter Egg hunt, now an annual institution, in Orland.

But best of all the Boosters Club sponsored a new recreation, softball, the idea being brought from the San Joaquin by Johnny Leonard. By the summer of 1933, the diamond in the vacant block; A St., Tehama St., First St. and Swift St; was the scene most every evening of the popular new game with a regular league. Town and country joined in friendly rivalry and forgot for the moment the depression woes. Those were the days of the champion Plaza men's team and the champion Plaza girls' team.

### Freeze of 1933

As though the economic depression was not enough, Old Mother Nature took a deadly blow at Orland; December 11th being the worst night; 18 degrees. Temperatures for a week ran 20, 20, 18, 21, 26, 27 and 19. Orange trees somehow lived through though the crop was ruined; but eucalyptus trees dating back to 1880 were frozen and killed.

The First National Bank fearing the fate of dozens of closed banks up and down the valley, sold to the Bank of America in January of 1933, only weeks before President Roosevelt as one of his first acts in March, declared the bank holiday of fourteen days.

The Modern Woodmen of the World celebrated their fiftieth anniversary as an Orland lodge, honoring the three living charter members, Ed. Codromac, Walter Hicks and Fred Vinsonhaler.

### Baby of the Depression

"Old Timer" appeared as a regular feature of the Orland Register that year, January 30, 1933, and for twenty years has never missed an issue. "Old Tim-



er" might well be called just another depression baby.

Four deaths of early Project citizens occurred in that month; Mrs. Gussie Igllick, who had been most active in Orland's clubwork; and William Chaney, business man of Orland since 1909 and leader in many civic ventures during those years. W. E. Spence, prominent in the early days of the project, died that spring at his home in Berkeley. John M. Leonard, also active in early project history, died during the previous fall, in San Jose.

The first legal beer since 1918 was served in Orland, Art Simpson, popular tavern owner of pre-prohibition days, doing the honors.

#### Ladino Clover Is Planted

It was in this spring of 1933, that first mention was made in "Old Timer," of a new crop which many farmers thought might be the salvation of the Project, especially of the dairymen; Ladino clover, planted here and there in a desperate experiment to find a crop to replace the dwindling fields of alfalfa. Few realized the giant industry which would grow from these test plots in 1933.

The famous Lenora Simpson trial was under way. Miss Simpson had a very peculiar idea about trespassing on her property at the Simpson bridge, west of Orland. In fact a few years earlier she had taken a potshot at the car of Judge William Finch who had mistaken her entrance road for the main county road. Miss Simpson was arrested for simple assault, after threatening one of the Masterson oil well drillers for venturing into the creek at the Simpson bridge.

The trial was long and sensational, but Miss Simpson finally was acquitted through the clever work of her attorney, H. W. Mc-

Gowan, who later had to sue her for his attorney's fees.

#### 20 Days of Century Weather

Old Man Weather after that winter of record cold weather, doubled in the following summer, with a heat wave that set up another record; twenty days in July with over 100 degree weather, the tops at 113; and then a return engagement in August when on August 13th it was 114 and on August 14th, 117 degrees!

An institution peculiar to Orland was inaugurated in the fall of 1933; the annual Halloween Party, by the Orland Kiwanis Club; a party for all the kids of the Land of Orland in lieu of the usual Halloween pranks. Proposed by H. O. Williams, high school principal, the idea clicked from the first party and has become an annual institution made possible by the fine cooperation of business men, school faculties, civic, club, veteran and lodge organizations.

Three men who had been prominent in Orland died that fall, Josef Sperlich, retired business man, Dr. D. L. Martin, former Orland physician and popular "Wave" Kesselring.

#### Weber Is Transferred

R. C. E. Weber, project manager, who had been a wheelhorse in the obtaining of Stony Gorge Dam, as the representative of the now unpopular Reclamation Bureau, became as unpopular with disgruntled and desperate water users as he had once been popular. Following a resolution asking his removal, Weber was transferred to the Yuma Project that year and D. L. Carmody took up the difficult job. The job was made more difficult by the "backing and filling" the indecision and lack of understanding of autocratic Dr. Mead, head of





the Bureau. Congressman Lea again led the battle for the water users and it was largely through his first hand information that final relief from the overwhelming repayment burden came to the Project in the way of extension of charges after years of bitter wrangling.

### Out of the Depression Depths

With the coming of 1934, there appeared on the horizon a return of a bit of the old time Orland optimism. One could not put one's finger on any exact event, but Orland like the rest of the nation began to pull itself up by its bootstraps. The first President's Birthday Ball, the initial March of Dimes for polio, was held that spring; Golden State entered the picture buying out Northern California; the Harvey Amusement company took over the local theatre from C. A. Pendleton and rebuilt.

Three Orland Project pioneers died that spring, Ed E. Green, resident since the eighties, retired business man and one of the founders of the Orland Baseball Park; S. W. Baugher, a more recent arrival from Missouri, who had retired to Long Beach, and Marcus Holt, one of the founders of the Norwegian Colony out in the Calumet district and first minister of the Orland Lutheran Church.

Johnny Kula died in February only hours after taking part in a boxing match at the newly formed Orland Athletic Club, in the clubrooms located where Barceloux Bros. are now located. In the friendly match he was hit by his opponent, staggered to the ropes, and died only a few hours later.

### Golden State Builds

Golden State continued to expand, first taking over the strug-

gling Orland Cheese & Butter, the cooperative; then early in 1935 constructing the three-story building adjoining the old plant, a building capable of handling 100,000 pounds of milk daily.

Golden State made butter-making a side issue, going heavily into powdered milk, employing fifty men, and making Orland the dairy center of the valley.

M. G. Haigh was named supervisor for this district, holding that position until his resignation a few years ago when he became road commissioner for the county.

### Fireplace Dedicated

Over to the northwest of Memorial Hall is a huge stone fireplace surrounded by pine trees; a fireplace given by John Berlinger, Sr., in memory of his son Verner, 16, who died in 1934; Verner one of the Boy Scouts of Troop 4 sponsored by the American Legion, with J. A. Russell as Scoutmaster.

Agitation for a public utility district for the county waxed hot that fall, but the tide turned and the proposed district was soundly trounced at the election by a two to one vote.

Missing the Glenn County Fair that year, the Orland Boosters Club sponsored an Orland Orange Show on December 8th, tying it in with the opening of the Christmas season. A queen contest was held and Edith Allen, now Mrs. Reeve Barceloux, was crowned Orange Queen by Mayor J. E. Faltings, having as her attendants, of the twenty queen candidates, Vivian Snell, Elinor Borgeson, Marie Dado and Barbara Douglas. The Orland Orange Packing plant held Open House for it was in the midst of packing season and incidentally 97 carloads of oranges were shipped that season. The Orange Show was climaxed by a Grand Ball



sponsored by the Artois Fire District.

### Rainbow Girls Organize

In May of 1935, the Orland Rainbow for Girls was instituted with impressive ceremonies at the Masonic Temple. Ruth Lowden was the first worthy advisor with Edith Allen, assistant worthy advisor. Mrs. Hazel Thode was the first Mother Advisor, a position she held with the greatest efficiency for six years resigning only to become Grand Deputy of the entire district, a position she holds to this day.

Despite the depression, the Federated church launched a campaign in April for funds for the new church home. So successful was the campaign that ground was broken less than a year later and the new church at First and Colusa dedicated two years after the first drive for funds, in the spring of 1938.

### Form Rural Fire District

The Orland Rural Fire District was formed at an election in June, 1935 being approved by a vote of 173 to 58, resulting in fire protection throughout the Land of Orland, the new organization working in close cooperation with the city department the same volunteer firemen manned both town and rural trucks.

The Boosters Club repeating their previous year's success, planted out a thousand trees on Washington's Birthday, this time planting Arizona Ash, the trees you see today on many Orland streets. The second Track Invitational was held on Orland High's new track at Roosevelt Field with 20 high schools, some as far away as Lakeport, being represented. The reservoir-lakes were overflowing early that spring; butterfat had jumped to 38 cents a pound. Orland was leaving depression days behind.

### Leading Citizens Die

Four Orland folks who had much to do with the formative years of Orland died that spring; Mrs. Laban Searce, "Mother Searce," who had come to Orland as a bride of nineteen over the Coast Range by way of Covelo to the ranch west of town which she and her husband developed; Mrs. Helen Keene, wife of the local publisher, and leader in civic and church affairs; P. D. Bane, at the Masonic Home in Decoto, "P. D." who had developed the first almond orchard here and was head of the Water Users for years; and A. E. Lindstrom, a more recent comer to Orland, a retired newspaper man, who developed the orchards east of town now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Nielsen, who had been active in water users affairs.

A number of war veterans took on the project of a community ambulance and successfully carried on the venture to its present solid standing in the community.

The Baptist group purchased the Presbyterian church at First and Mill, for their permanent home that year. Congress authorized the first money that year for the construction of the Central Valley Project.

In the summer of 1935, the WPA appeared and there was talk of a municipal swimming pool out in Spence Park. A bond election for \$8,000 for the purpose, however, was defeated in December by 11 votes.

### Doc Bihler's Dream

But it was a defeat which led to bigger things. Dr. C. C. Bihler, one of Orland's most ardent baseball fans, conceived the idea which was considered a bit "whacky" at the time by many. He urged the purchase of the 17-acre vacant tract directly east of the high school as a municipal





playground. Here were to be located the softball diamond, the hardball diamond, tennis courts, horseshoe courts, children's playground and a municipal swimming pool.

The idea caught on, the Council by trading delinquent property, obtained title to the site. WPA officials were contacted, and from that brilliant idea of Dr. Bihler, seemingly impractical at the time, came Vinsonhaler Park and Playground built by WPA with its fine swimming pool, its baseball fields, its children's playgrounds, the horseshoe court. With its beautiful planting, it has become the mecca of picnic parties, of families and organizations throughout the entire summer. The park was named after Fred C. Vinsonhaler, councilman, who had charge of the project; while the baseball field, the darling of the founder's heart, was named Bihler Field after Doc Bihler. And so today we have this 17-acre playground named Vinsonhaler Park and the baseball field, named Bihler Field, as the result of one man who dared to dream and battled to bring that dream to reality.

#### Orland Fiesta Held

The winter festival was renamed that year, 1935, the Orland Fiesta, and was held downtown in the vacant Barceloux Building. Ruth Lowden was crowned by Mayor Faltings as queen. A tug-of-war, a band concert, a fashion show and a dance made up the entertainment. A feature that year was the exceptionally fine dressed turkey exhibit of which Inman Beck was manager.

More Arizona Ash were planted in the spring of 1936 with a bean feed at the firehouse. Fifty-two cars of oranges were shipped, the crop being only half of the

previous year. The dams utilized the spillways in February in one of the wettest winters.

#### FDR Signs Relief Bill

President Roosevelt signed the Project relief bill in 1936, the terms of which were far more liberal than had been anticipated, thanks to the yeoman work of Congressman Lea. 300 acres of submarginal land were excluded from the Project and better lands added in their place. The water users accepted the new contracts without too much bickering. And so ended the five year battle for terms acceptable to both the Reclamation Bureau and the local water users.

The Orland Grange was organized just before the depression; in 1928 with B. R. Tingley as Master, and had become the voice of the farmers of the Project in many of the depression problems, the Orland Grange celebrated the completion of their Grange Hall, just east of the city limits, with the dedication on December 23, 1936; a tremendous task completed in those depression years.

#### Public Wedding Held

The Orange Fiesta in 1937 expanded to a two day affair, was held at the Memorial Hall with a tent out on the lawn for the overflow. In addition to the citrus and turkey show, there was a goodly exhibit of farm products. Dorothy Carrico was the Queen that year. However the big attraction was the public wedding, the names of the young couple being kept secret until that evening; Dorothy Blacet and Fredrick Reiman, both well known Orlanders.

Death took an exceptional heavy toll in the fall of 1936 and the spring of 1937. Bob Gilmore, Lake farmer and Orland booster without peer, was killed in an auto accident in Oregon. P. K. Hicks, native son and business



man here for a score of years, died in July. Jim Monroe, popular barber and developer of a fine orange grove west of town died in March. Mrs. Francis Wigmore, wife of the editor of the Register, died in April of 1937.

Under the leadership of the Orland Grange, the present bus system was established for the Orland High and later for the Orland Grammar.

#### **Fair Board Takes Over**

The Glenn County Fair management finding a bit of life in the "old gal," took over the Orland Orange Fiesta, and moved that event back to September in 1937; making it the forerunner of a revival of the annual Fair. Charles K. Price took on the job as manager and a four day fair was held the latter part of September out at the Memorial Hall, overflowing into a huge tent on the lawn.

Jean Dado, now Gilmore, was Queen, crowned by Judge R. M. Rankin. The school parade was revived though in a soaking rain. An amateur program was held, Jack Owen being judged the top attraction. The "One-Family Farm" exhibit originated that year and the idea has been copied by many district fairs throughout the state.

#### **Polio Strikes Orland**

Polio struck suddenly in the fall of 1937. Tommy Turner, a local teacher, was first stricken and was left crippled by the disease. Virginia Coombs, another teacher, was hit by bulbar polio and died within four days. Maxine Millsaps was stricken with a lighter case. Schools closed and homes were quarantined.

After weeks of rain, Stony Creek went on a rampage, hitting the highest flood mark since 1915,

halting all transportation. Sixteen feet of snow was reported at Mineral and both dams overflowed early in January. Fourteen inches of snow fell in Orland in January 1937, a record covering many years.

Four prominent Orland residents died that year; Charlie Templeton who came as a youth to St. John in 1872, and was a pioneer in almonds here and prominent on the Water Users' board for years; George M. Hickman, merchant in Orland since 1911; Mrs. T. H. Brown, wife of the local physician, and active in club work; and Jimmy Morrissey, who came to Orland and the Lake district in 1874, and was active in the early days of the project.

#### **Cloak and Dagger Plot**

Lenora Simpson, always good copy for the newspapers, was charged with a fantastic plot to murder or have murdered H. W. McGowan, her former attorney. She was finally found not guilty of the plot in a sensational trial which ended on March 28, 1938.

About the same time the Water Users' directors succeeded in having a CCC camp located here; Camp Orland, just west of town, for the cleaning and lining of the Project's canals and laterals. The Camp was established in the early summer and became quite an institution, many of the boys remaining here and some marrying Orland girls in the three years of the camp's existence.

Perhaps no better indication of the gradual return of Orland to normal from the depth of the depression can be found than in the revival of the Glenn County Fair. Fairs never thrive in depression days, but each year the Fair growing from a one day Orange Festival, grew and thrived, busting its buttons in 1938 and





1939 in the makeshift home at the Memorial Building.

State money from the race track fund began flowing Orlandward with \$12,483 paid out in premiums in Thirty-eight, many times the premiums paid in the heydays of the old Glenn County Fair. In 1939, the total jumped to \$15,000.

#### Permanent Home for The Fair

Early in 1939, the directors realizing that the Fair must have a permanent home, combed the countryside for an ideal spot. They came near making the mistake of putting it west of Highway 99W between Hambright and Stony Creek, the site a sea of water in the flood of 1940.

Finally they settled on "The Forty Acres," the vacant field at the southeast corner of town, known for generations as the trysting spot for Orland couples. The entire Forty was purchased for \$1,400. Plans were drawn up for an elaborate fairgrounds; but little money was available for fair buildings.

An effort toward interesting the federal government in a WPA project was first rejected; then state aid was sought. Without any fanfare of trumpets, a telegram was suddenly received from Congressman Lea that the fair project had been accepted as a WPA project, the red tape being cut by the experienced hand of Clarence F. Lea.

The State Department of Fairs and Exhibitions, seeing the opportunity to build a model fair grounds at a minimum of cost, dropped \$20,000 into the kitty. What once appeared as a long almost hopeless task suddenly became a reality.

#### WPA Enters the Picture

The Fair grounds hummed with activity as the WPA crews got to work; the grounds were leveled,

the only private contract of the lot; the entire "Forty" was fenced; work got under way on the quarter mile track, the grandstand, the poultry sheds, the cow barns and the main hall and entrance; all in the initial WPA project. Later the horse barns were added by WPA work. In less than a year and a half the big job was completed in time for the first Glenn County Fair in its own home in the fall of 1941.

In the meantime the WPA project at Vinsonhaler Park was completed, the trees and shrubs planted by the Boosters Club in the spring of 1940.

#### Swimming Pool Dedicated

Under the leadership of Jim Moran as president of the Boosters Club, Orland went all out in the dedication of the new Municipal Swimming Pool and Playground. May 27, 1939 was the day and one of the hottest May days in history; so hot that the very clever mural paintings on walls of the dressing rooms facing the pool, the work of Helen Gakey and her high school class, peeled off before the ceremonies were completed.

Sixty bathing beauties, a "Father Neptune" pageant, top brass from the state and WPA, speeches by Dr. C. C. Bihler, Fred Vinsonhaler, M. G. Haigh, and the dedication by Mayor J. E. Faltings; a huge barbecue and exhibition at the horseshoe pits by World Champion Zimmerman, a grand ball at which Lieutenant-Governor Patterson was the honored guest.

But the big attraction was put on by Phil Patterson of the Hotel Fairmont pool of San Francisco. Top swim stars were brought to Orland, topped by gracious Helen Crlenkovich, women's national springboard champion, and Ted Needham, coast spring board and high



diving champion. The dedication of the pool and park was indeed a red letter day in top days for Orland.

#### Junior Women Organize

A new women's club, the Orland Junior Women's Club, sponsored by the older club, came into being in December, 1939, with Sally Mudd as the first president, and became a fine asset through the war years and today in the community work of Orland. The new club in a large measure, replaced the Orland Business and Professional Women's Club which disappeared in Orland during the war years.

Camp Orland furnished a bit of excitement in the fall of '38 when bad feeling between camp enrollees and young bloods of the county broke out in a riot in May of 1938. Seventeen youths landed in jail, including five from the camp. The Grand Jury brought indictments against them but the whole thing simmered down to a \$5.00 fine and a suspended 60 days for each of them, except the CCC five and these charges were dismissed.

#### Ambulance Group Incorporate

Determined to make the ambulance service in Orland a permanent asset, the Orland Ambulance Association came into being the following spring with Carroll Silver as the first president. This organization has continued to today giving ambulance service to members and non-members at a ridiculously low cost.

Death took two prominent women that year; Mrs. Willard Clark, prominent in club and Eastern Star work, in September; and Mrs. Nick "Mother" Thode in January. Both had lived many years in the Land of Orland, "Mother" Thode nearly a half century.

#### "Doc Edmundson Day"

One of Orland's best beloved citizens, a man without peer for his dry humor, was honored at the 1939 Fair when a "Dr. Edmundson Day" was held. Forty-four years practicing medicine in Orland, Doc. Edmundson, an Orland institution, was duly honored at the occasion. During his witty response Doc stated that he saw many mature men and women in the audience whom he had brought into the world, and that many of them as far as he could recollect, hadn't been paid for yet!

Helen Crlenkovich, who seemed to have taken a liking to Orland, returned for that fair and led the pet parade through the streets of Orland.

#### VFW Post is Formed

Orland's second veterans' organization came into being on February 11, 1939 when the Kenneth C. Morrissey Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary were installed with Fred Johnson as the first Post Commander.

No one who lived in the Land of Orland at that time will forget the great flood of 1940. After weeks of downpour Stony Creek staged its worst flood in a half century.

Shortly after dawn of February 25th, the fire siren sounded endlessly, rousing the entire town. Stony Creek breaking over above the highway bridge, headed down the highway to Orland. All of the area west of town between Ham-bright and Stony was a sea of muddy water and large areas to the north and northeast of Orland were under water.

#### Flood Waters in Orland

The flood waters unable to flow eastward because of the railroad embankment, headed toward town and business men hurriedly sandbagged their door-





ways to keep out the rising water. Walker street was flooded curb to curb to Fifth street; the waters came within two inches of entering the front door of the bank at Fourth and Colusa; sandbags kept out the flood at the Federated church at First and Colusa.

Only the heroic work of the Camp Orland boys saved the town from great damage. Working hour after hour they erected a barricade of sandbags across the highway at the arch to divert the flood eastward into the main canal. The S. P. officials refused the right to cut through the high embankment sought by city officials in an effort to divert the flood away from town.

#### Shortest Taxi in The World

An emergency kitchen was set up in the Federated church and the Red Cross took care of those who had fled from the flood waters in the area. A humorous note was added when enterprising Banker Flaherty established the "shortest taxi line in the world." He had a car stationed at Owen's Rexall store and gave free rides to the bank door for all bank customers, a distance of 30 feet in water 6 inches deep!

Just why the flood waters descended so suddenly down the willow-choked bed of Stony was never determined. Warm rains melted the heavy snows in the watershed; both reservoir lakes were full. The report that the gates at Stony Gorge had not been lowered soon enough to spread out the overflow was vehemently denied by D. L. Carmody, Project manager.

#### Flood Damage Is Heavy

Extensive damage was done to homes in the flooded area, considerable sacked grain in the local warehouse and feed stores was ruined, the approaches to the Chico-Orland bridge over Stony

were washed out and the Ham-bright bridge on 99W was badly wrecked, halting all traffic on the main highway. One teacher whose home was in Red Bluff was stranded. She phoned her mother, then walked across Stony on the railroad bridge and was met by her mother at the Wyo road.

Grateful for the help given by Camp Orland boys, the business men of Orland gave a turkey dinner with the CCC boys as guests of honor, in the Grange Hall on March 11th.

An Orland landmark was destroyed by fire in July of Thirty-nine when the Mehl home on Second street near Walker was burned to the ground. Well known Orland people who died that year were Mrs. Metta Steuben, 90, who had lived southeast of Orland in the Plaza area for 67 years; and Louis E. Brownell, who as an infant came to Orland and the Brownell Ranch in 1862. Lou Brownell was active in Project affairs serving for several years as president and director of the Glenn County Fair.

Lou Brownell had many an interesting story of the early days of the Land of Orland; of driving the sheep to the mountain summer range; of the Chinese, after picking clean the tailings at the gold-bearing streams, hiring out in the valley as farm help, there being 20 to 30 Chinese farm hands on some ranches; of the vegetable gardens these Chinese always had to supply themselves and the ranch home; of the time when every ranch had its Chinese cook who ruled with an iron hand over the ranch kitchen.

#### Night Ball at Bihler Field

Orland set the pace for the rest of the valley when the first hardball game under lights was played at Bihler Field on May 20, 1940. Roosevelt Field, the football field, had had lights for



several years, being the first turfed and lighted football field in this area.

With Vinsonhaler Park and Playground completed, the first organized summer recreational program was inaugurated in the summer of 1940. This program has been enlarged and extended until today with two paid directors, the recreational program covers the entire summer season and gives directed play in softball, twilight softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball and a dozen other sports to not only the youth of Orland but of the entire Land of Orland.

It is noteworthy that at this time, 1940, Charles K. Price, school principal, reported that during the year, 20,933 meals had been served during the term to grammar school students, the cafeteria being outgrown by the increasing volume.

#### **Black Butte Appears**

Following the disastrous floods in all parts of the valley the previous January, a meeting of the State Chamber of Commerce at Chico in June recommended that flood control dams be advocated on all streams feeding into the Sacramento, Stony Creek being high on the list. Julian Rocks was favored as the location of this dam, the first time that flood control had been seriously advocated for Stony Creek.

Out of this beginning came the study of the entire Stony Creek flood control problem with the final recommendation by the Army Engineers, in charge of flood control, that a flood control dam be erected at Black Butte, eight miles northwest of Orland. This dam is now on the drawing board, having obtained Congressional approval, and is awaiting additional federal funds for its construction.

The 1940 census for Orland was disappointing, the total in town being listed at only 1,362, an increase of 14 percent in the decade. Willows showed 2,195, an increase of eight percent, and Corning, 1,453, an increase of six percent.

Orland's city government prepared in 1940 to move into its permanent home when the vacant Bank of Orland Building at Fifth and Walker, was purchased for a song and plans went forward for its modernization. The city that year started an extensive street oiling program which resulted in the fine residence streets of today.

#### **Look Ahead to New Fair**

The Fair went Western in Forty with cowboy costume the accepted mode of dress with the Horse Show on Roosevelt Field the big attraction. It was that year that an exceptionally fine float for the opening parade, prepared by the Orland Grange, was stranded west of the railroad by the mile-long freight train and missed the parade entirely.

But fair visitors that year were looking ahead to the 1941 Fair at the new fair grounds. "Meet Me at the Forty in Forty-One" was the slogan. The temporary buildings which had served for the revival of the Fair were torn down almost overnight and the Glenn County Fair became a fair without a home no longer.

#### **Draft Board Is Named**

The tread of Hitler's army which seemed so far away less than a decade earlier, began to echo in the Land of Orland early in 1940 as they echoed throughout the nation. The draft law brought the possibility of another war home as the Glenn County draft board was organized and Charles K. Price and J. K. Masterson were named from Orland for the difficult job.





### 2,000 Register for Draft

October 16th was Draft Registration day and 2,000 young men between the ages of 21 and 35 registered in Glenn county, the newspapers carrying endless columns of draft numbers.

But affairs were carried on in a normal fashion in the Land of Orland but with always the war cloud in the background growing heavier each day. The first outdoor Christmas party with Santa Claus sponsored by the Boosters Club and the merchants was held for the youngsters that year. The huge exhibit hall at the Fairgrounds, later to be named "Flaherty Hall," was started when the state found another \$15,000 for the local fairgrounds construction. The old Hotel Orland, known as the Bullock Building, got a face lifting; the old two decker "forty-niner" porch being torn down, the cupulo corner removed and remodelled, and the plain red brick being given a stucco coat.

### Death Takes Notables

Death took a heavy toll that fall of prominent citizens; Guy L. Louderback in September, attorney here for twenty years, district attorney for one term, and head of the Water Users for several terms; Judge "Bob" Rankin, Orland attorney for years and later very highly esteemed superior judge of Glenn county; Jack Simpson, popular Orland native and former fire chief; John J. Lachenmyer, pioneer of the project and developer of fine farms, who had retired to Artesia; and last, W. A. Beard, who had had such an important role in the formation of the project.

1941! A year so packed with events both locally and nationally that it makes many other years seem colorless and uneventful.

### School Bus Accident

The first and only serious

school bus accident occurred when 1941 was a wee pup, January 6th. Fifty-three grammar school youngsters homeward bound on the school bus driven by Bill Harris, teacher, touched Death's wing. A car driven by Edward H. Ballew, went through a stop sign at Second and Tehama Streets and crashed into the loaded bus midships. Fortunately only three youngsters suffered serious injuries none of which were permanent. Ballew, charged with reckless driving, was given a ninety-day jail sentence.

There have been wet years and dry years in the century of Orland's history but none to equal the "granddaddy" of them all, 1940-1941. Instead of an average rainfall of a bit over seventeen inches, the skies opened that winter; 9.8 inches in December, 9.81 inches in January and 9.17 inches in February; making a total for the season of 41.44 inches.

### Basements Flooded

Every basement in Orland felt the shock of the water level practically at the top of the ground. Stocks were ruined overnight in spite of constant pumping to keep the water down. Forty-two inches were recorded in the basement of the Orland Register. Furnaces were put out of commission. The May L. Reager school had to be evacuated as the furnace room was flooded, and classes had to double up in the Mill Street school for three full months that spring. Many basements were not pumped clear of water until early July.

War again sent an advance notice to Orland in February when the Federal Trade school to train welders and other war material craftsmen was authorized at the high school and the old manual training building tripled in size



with federal money. This was the only trade school of its type north of Sacramento.

#### March Storm Halts Traffic

Westside traffic was halted by a March storm at Arbuckle and Red Bluff when bridges went out including Hambright bridge and the east approach to the Chico-Orland bridge over Stony.

But stimulated by the preparation for the war effort, prices were good in Orland, business was on the upgrade and the stark days of the Thirties seemed decades away. The Orland Chamber of Commerce, dormant for over ten years, was revived with Jos. S. Erickson as president. The Orland Grange in May burned the mortgage on their new Grange Hall; the first Rural School Festival was held that spring. War still seemed far away in Orland.

#### Twister Hits Orland

Old Man Weather after giving the valley that winter a soaking never seen in recorded history, added a bit of midwest to the scene by sending through the business section a real midwest twister on April 9th; a twister which tore off roofs of business houses, lifted huge sheets of galvanized roofing from the Masonic Temple until, high in the air, they looked like pasteboard shoebox covers; broke plate glass windows at Fourth and Walker, lifted private garages off their foundations and demolished barns and farm buildings as it whirled away across Stony Creek and through the Lake district.

Work went on in completing the new fairgrounds under WPA; horse barns were added; streets and paths laid out and oiled; over 300 trees and shrubs were planted under the direction of L. W. Wigmore, Agnes Lely and H. O. Williams.

"Open Gardens" a unique Orland institution, was established that year as an annual event by the Garden Section of the Women's Improvement Club.

#### National Defense Day

But war was in the air. Orland on April 12th, less than seven months before Pearl Harbor, held a National Defense Day celebrating with Open House at Camp Orland and the new Defense School. A drive was successfully completed in June for USO funds in Orland. J. A. Russel and Leonard McGee of the high school faculty, both members of the reserve, were called to active duty. Orland petitioned the supervisors to purchase the Crocker tract, southeast of Orland as an airfield, the tract which is known today as Haigh Field. War was coming closer and closer to Orland and the nation that summer of 1941.

But life went on at the usual pace. The long sought kindergarten for Orland was finally authorized that spring and established in the fall of 1941.

But Death took its full toll of pioneers and community leaders; in the winter of 1940. Mary Bates, one of the first settlers of Citrona Park, died at the ripe old age of eighty-six; Ollie Searce Parsons, member of the pioneer Searce family died; Anton Norby, one of the vanguard of the sturdy Norwegians who have played an important part in the history of Orland, died at his home just south of town.

#### Draft Lottery Held

But War came closer and closer to Orland during that summer and fall of 1941. Orland along with the rest of the nation listened as the fatal capsules were drawn in the National Draft Lottery. Clayton Howard LaVigne was the first Orlander, his number being





the third one drawn. An army training plane was wrecked six miles southwest of Kirkwood, the student pilot, stationed at Stockton, being killed. The supervisors earmarked \$400 for the purchase of the present site of Haigh Field, which unknown at the time, was soon to be taken over as an auxiliary airfield by the Chico Training Center.

#### First Fair at New Home

The big event, of course, in spite of war rumors, was the opening of the Glenn County Fair in its new \$200,000 permanent home; the "Famous Forty Acres" changing in less than a year and a half from a rocky weed-ridden barren waste into a thing of beauty with spacious permanent buildings, oiled streets, walks and parking area, a quarter mile track and huge grandstand, and trees, shubbery and lawns. The Glenn County Fair had at last come into its own, thanks to the WPA and aid from the State.

The 1941 Fair Sept. 16 to 20 took on a patriotic air as all wore tri-colored neckerchiefs. The first races were held on the new track and a well balanced vaudeville show vied in interest with the produce in the new Exhibit Hall, the huge tent, the dairy sheds and horse barns out for the \$26,000 in premiums.

#### Flaherty Hall Is Named

But the big event of the 1941 Glenn County Fair was the Dedication ceremonies of the new home of the Fair, held on Wednesday afternoon; one of those blazing hot afternoons with the huge grandstand packed. State and national top brass were there along with county and town officials with the entire board of directors present. L. W. Wigmore was "emcee" of the event and had the honor of springing the well-kept secret of the day when he formally dedicated the new Ex-

hibit Hall as "Flaherty Hall," honoring the Fair president, who had been largely instrumental in building the fine home for his beloved Glenn County Fair.

Few who watched the lights go out that Saturday night in September had any thought that this would be the last Glenn County Fair for half a decade and that when the next Glenn County Fair opened, the familiar figure of President Jno. J. Flaherty with his familiar fair cane used only during Fair Week, would be missing.

#### Olive A War Baby

A new war baby appeared on the scene in full force that year, olives. A drug on the market for years, olives had been considered only a byproduct, useful for wind-breaks but often not even harvested. With the European imports cut to a trickle by the war, California olives rocketed to "black gold," and locally became a great asset. New processing and oil plants sprang up that year, notably the modern R. Maselli plant on the highway at the south part of town; and two or three others, as well as the cooperative plant of local olive growers. Though prices did not hold up to those early prewar heights, olives have continued to be a reliable source of income in the Land of Orland, and a number of new olive groves have been planted.

An effective project of clearing Stony Creek of its brush and willows to prevent the reoccurrence of the floods of the two previous years got under way, a crew of sixty men finally being put to work, but Pearl Harbor halted this fine project in no time. The demand for labor in the various war plants siphoned off many CCC boys and Camp Orland, closed its doors on November 30th, but not before a spectacular



fire on July 8th, when the recreation hall was destroyed.

### **Last Pre-War Party**

Santa Claus paid his last peacetime visit to Orland on December 5th when the merchants opened the Christmas season, two days before Pearl Harbor. The supervisors yielding to constant pressure as one of their last peacetime acts, abolished six of the eight judicial districts of the county, retaining justices of the peace and constables only at Orland and Willows.

### **Dec. 7th, Pearl Harbor!**

Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941! Overnight Orland along with the rest of the nation changed from a peacetime existence to a nightmare of war and war casualties and war rumors. December 7th was a peaceful Sunday morning until the radio told the fateful news of Pearl Harbor.

Monday night, Orlanders gathered to man the listening post, first at Vern Squier's Garage on Highway 99-W, just south of the city limits; then on account of truck noise, moved ten days later to the CCC Camp. Later the post was moved to Vinsonhaler Park where day and night in three and six hour shifts, the corps watched for the Jap planes which never came.

Red Cross First Aid classes got under way; Red Cross bandage wrapping sessions, night after night; a county-wide Defense Council was set up; blackouts were held; all unnecessary auto traffic by night was halted; defense workers registered; auto tire rationing; sugar rationing; the old rubber drive netted 204,715 pounds; scrap iron drives were held weekly; all interscholastic events were cancelled; the oldsters, 45 to 65, registered in the spring; minute men were named to sell Defense Bonds. Orland

swung quickly into the tempo of an allout war.

### **Jap Reserve Officer Arrested**

Pearl Harbor was but a day old when an old familiar figure, "Henry, the vegetable man," disappeared. Henry, a huge likable vegetable trucker out of Sacramento, was considered by most as just another friendly Chinese peddler. But the FBI thought otherwise and Henry Moromoto, a reserve officer in the Japanese army, was picked up by local peace officers on instructions from the FBI. Henry never appeared again in Orland, being sent to federal prison on charges of income tax evasion; an easy way to dispose of a dangerous enemy alien.

The contracts for the Chico Airport, which later trained hundreds of airmen for active duty, were let and not only the recently purchased Crocker tract, now Haigh Field, but also another large acreage north in Capay, Boone Field, were quickly built into auxiliary fields for the student fliers from Chico.

### **Service Flag Dedicated**

Orland dedicated its World War II Service Flag on a Sunday afternoon in April; sixty stars and three gold stars, Robert Frizzell, Cecil Madden and Jack Asdell, the last being one of Orland's most beloved young men. W. B. Taylor was Emcee of that event with Jos S. Erickson, Sr., as president of the Chamber, making the brief dedicatory address.

Less than nine months earlier, the man who dedicated the first World War Service Flag in Orland, Willard Clark, died suddenly at his Burlingame home. In the winter months before that event, two of Orland's first city fathers died; George E. Wright, Orland's first mayor, and J. B.





Hazelton, a member of the first Board of Trustees of Orland.

But community activities, curtailed to some extent, went on. The Orland Evangelical Free Church congregation on January 1st, burned the building mortgage. The annual Firemen's Ball was moved from the Memorial Hall to the spacious Flaherty Hall but was doublecrossed by Old Man Weather who took that day and evening for a freak snow storm.

### All Out Effort in Orland

But the impact of war unlike the first World War, hit in startling blows on Orland which was geared to an allout war effort by the fall of 1942. War drives crowded on the heels of a dozen war efforts. A rubber drive netted 240,000 pounds of old rubber; a scrap metal drive added 157 tons of old metal, the ancient first World War cannon which had graced the library lawn for over two decades being sacrificed for this drive; a dimout of all valley towns went into effect; the deer season was cancelled; 160 observers took their turns at the listening post; gas rationing was ordered and a speed limit of 35 miles an hour imposed; the annual Halloween Party for the kids was cancelled; coffee was rationed to one pound per adult every five weeks; a tin can drive added a ton of old tin cans; ration cards appeared; and registration for these cards was held; Victory gardens sprung up in every vacant lot and in flower gardens; farm machinery was rationed; sliced bread was banned; a drive for old silk stockings brought in 3,000 pair; shoes were rationed to three pair a year; meat was put on the ration list; a drive was held for junk jewelry.

### Hattie Asdell Red Cross Leader

Under the enthusiastic leader-

ship of Hattie Asdell, workers, numbering 130, turned out 30,300 surgical dressings; the Red Cross drive that year went over 224 percent, a total of \$5,819.47 being raised here. The second Victory Loan was oversubscribed ten percent.

Spurred by the war needs, Golden State purchased the city water works property to the north and started construction on the huge plant which tripled their floor space and went out entirely for the manufacture of whole dry milk. \$12,000 was earmarked for Stony Creek clearance and work got under way that fall. The present cow testing association was formed that year. The report showed 6570 acres within the Project was in Ladino clover, an astounding growth of this popular forage plant. The Project also had 2,000 acres in almonds at that time.

The Glenn County Fair became a war casualty early in July after the Board had toyed for some time with the idea of a curtailed fair. However in the spring of 1943, the Firemen's Ball was held as usual.

### All American Beaten

High school football was restricted to afternoon games with a game completely out of the ordinary that fall. The Orland Trojans, coached by Al Nicholini, All-American of St. Mary's and the Corning Olives, coached by Pauline Foster . . . that's right, coached by a woman . . . crowded war news aside a bit when the woman-coached team from Corning defeated the local team coached by the All-American by a score of 14 to 0.

Orland had a distinguished visitor that fall; Earl Warren, then attorney-general, who was making his first try for Governor against Governor Olson, a battle



he won handily that fall. Clair Engle won his first seat in Congress at the same election.

Death took a heavy toll of Orland citizens and leaders during that war year. E. E. Martin, former president of the First National Bank, who had retired to Pasadena, died in July, 1942. Dr. J. D. Edmundson, beloved physician of Orland, died in August, leaving a void in Orland's community life. An ardent baseball fan, "Doc" Edmundson claimed he had been the first pitcher to throw a curved ball.

### Jno J. Flaherty Dies

It was on the evening of January 26, 1943 that all Orland was stunned by the sudden death of John J. Flaherty, civic leader and "father" of the Glenn County Fair. Flaherty apparently in his usual good health, collapsed while addressing a Public Forum at the high school, a victim of a heart attack. No man had been more active in a score of civic projects than had John J. Flaherty. While he was manager of the Orland branch of the Bank of America after the First National of which he had been president, was swallowed up by the chain bank during the depths of the depression in 1933, Flaherty's best loved project was the Glenn County Fair, which he had guided for most of its life; lifting it from the depression years to its homecoming in its own fairgrounds, of which he was the inspiration, less than eighteen months previously. Flaherty saw but one Glenn County Fair in its new home, and had ambitious plans for ever greater development at the Fair Grounds.

### Dr. T. H. Brown Dies

Then less than five months later, on May 17th, another civic leader died. Though Dr. T. H. Brown had been ill for some time,

his death at the Woodland Clinic, was a decided shock to the community where he had been active in scores of community efforts over thirty years.

The death of Dr. Brown left Orland with only one medical office, Drs. Stanley E. and Ermanell Coffey, who took on the double burden caused by the death of Dr. Brown and Dr. Edmundson earlier that year. For the remainder of the war years, the two, especially Dr. Stanley Coffey carried the heavy load of caring for the health of a community large enough to keep three times that number of physicians busy.

### Christian Science Church

On May 23, 1943, dedication was held of the new Christian Science church at Third and Mill. This church was completed in 1939, but dedication was not held until the edifice was free of debt, that being one of the rulings of the Mother Church.

Two prominent Orland women died that spring of 1943. Mrs. E. A. Hardy who as manager of the Anchorage Farm in Loam Ridge, played an important part in the development of the Land of Orland, on April 7th; and Mrs. J. B. Hazelton, who had been a resident here since early project days and a leader in club and church work, on March 10th.

Plagued by lack of help as the war effort and defense plants had drained off the farm laborers, local growers banded together and on June 14, 1943, established a Mexican Nationals labor camp at the Fairgrounds, remodelling the poultry house for the camp with J. N. Cook named as supervisor of the project.

W. E. Worman, present manager, was named manager of the Orland Branch of the Bank of America on February 8th, to fill the vacancy caused by the death





of John J. Flaherty. The delinquent tax list that spring sank to a mere three percent; a far cry from the huge percentage of only a decade earlier.

### Many Orland Boys Killed

War came closer and closer to Orland as the dreaded telegrams arrived in Orland homes: adding gold stars to Orland's Service Flag: Robert Frizzell, Cecil Madden, Jack Asdell, Joe Nash, all killed in the farflung theatres of war; Jim Bayliss wounded in North Africa; Max Hamlin in a narrow escape when the destroyer of which he was a crew member, was sunk; Bob Ramsaur shot down over Germany and a war prisoner; LeRoy Winter and August Winter, both airmen, shot down over Germany and not heard from for months but both making their way finally back to allied lines; Major John Hurley, former high school coach, killed on the Italian front; Serg. Robert Kirkpatrick killed in action in North Africa; Clyde Smith shot down to his death in an air raid over Germany; Herman Kolousek killed in an air crash in England; Stanley Foster plunging to his death after a brilliant record in the South Pacific, in a plane accident over Nebraska; Alvin Winter killed in an air raid over Austria; Phillip C. Spencer killed on the Anzio beachhead; truly that fall, winter and spring of 1943-1944 brought tragedy to many Orland homes.

But there were shifts and changes in the rationing of many articles; coffee rationing was lifted in July; but a war ban was placed on all train travel except by obtaining reservations; meat rationing, except on certain choice cuts, was lifted early in 1944 and finally late in that spring Governor Warren lifted the ban on district fairs; too late for a Glenn County Fair that year. Rationing

of stoves went into effect in the fall of 1943; but the deer season banned the previous year, was opened though no extra gas was allowed the deer hunters. A drive was started by the American Legion for old phonograph records for the USO camps. The Hallo-we'en party for the kids was resumed when the dimout restrictions were lifted in the fall of 1943.

### Red Cross Sets Record

The Red Cross drive in 1944 went over the top in 15 days and before the drive ended, Orland had subscribed \$9,517, over \$1,600 more than its quota. Two carloads of old papers were collected and shipped by the grammar school youngsters and Boy Scouts as a war effort.

Grammar school enrollment that fall of 1943 was up to 483 and plans were being laid for new school buildings after the war. D. L. Carmody, who had been Project Manager since the transfer of R. C. E. Weber, was transferred to Wyoming in February and Earl R. Asdell, the first local man to hold the job, was promoted to Project Manager, a job he filled with eminent satisfaction until his transfer to Montana in 1947.

### Lions Club Formed

Early in January 1944, the Orland Lions Club was launched with thirty active members, Charter Night being held on February 9th, with John A. Wildermuth as president. The Lions Club soon became an active force in the community, sponsoring many fine projects.

Death took a heavy toll of prominent Orland citizens in the fall and winter of the war years of 1943-1944. Carrol Silver, active in veterans' organizations, on July 13th; D. L. Linton, Citrona Park



farmer, director of the water users, in October; Charlie Sanford, popular ditchrider for years, in November; Mrs. George Reager in February; Allen T. Moore, leader in civic affairs after his retirement as an active sheep raiser in the Floyd country, in the same month; Mrs. Preston Simpson, daughter of one of the founders of Orland, Jonathan Griffith, in May.

### Two Leaders Die

Two deaths in December left Orland with only memories of two outstanding citizens; Mae Reager, beloved teacher in the Orland schools for forty years, on December 2nd; and Fred C. Vinsonhaler, civic leader, city councilman and beloved citizen. Mae Reager had retired from active teaching only a few years earlier, having set on their way by her teaching in the first and second grades, generations of Orland youth. As a tribute to Mae Reager, the Mission Building was renamed the Mae L. Reager Building at the time of her retirement. Fred Vinsonhaler left his name on Orland's magnificent 17-acre playground, but was equally active in the work of the Federated church. A deodar tree in the center of Vinsonhaler Park was formally dedicated to him on Memorial Day, 1946.

But war and war efforts took up much of the limelight during that year. Orland, however, began to look forward to the postwar days. Black Butte Dam was included in the list of postwar projects by President Roosevelt; Purity Grocery announced plans for the new home at the corner of Mill and Fourth, the site of the ill-fated peewee golf course; Murdock school unionized with Orland; the annual Spring Stampede was held at the Fairgrounds with 200 horses in the show.

### Fire Downtown

Orland had a disastrous downtown fire that year when on June 4th, Sprouse-Reitz' new store was badly damaged by fire. But things were on the upturn as evidenced by the lifting by Governor Warren of the war ban on district fairs and plans were started for the 1945 Glenn County Fair.

But war still cast its heavy shadow on Orland. Phillip C. Spencer and Stanley Fullwood were reported missing in action in Italy; Carleton Hardy, Jr., reported a prisoner back of the Nazi lines; Chester Snodgrass killed in the Battle of the Bulge; Granville O. Wilson killed in the drive into Germany.

### Many Pioneers Die

Pioneer citizens died that fall and winter of 1944-1945; Wade Hightower, business man here for twenty years and member of a pioneer family; John A. Scribner, son of the pioneer of Newville and Orland, B. N. Scribner; Mrs. D. H. Masterson, mother of Frank and Kendrick; "Billy" Graves, who had lived on the Graves ranch where he was born, for 65 years; E. H. Guilford, retired Iowan, father of Margaret and Ralph Guilford.

Seeking some means to turn Victory Gardens into a permanent asset, the Community Cannery at the high school was launched that fall and built under the Federal War Production Program; an asset which has been utilized yearly not only by housewives, but by the schools for their cafeteria needs.

### Trojans Win Flag

That year was one of the Orland Trojans' outstanding years. Under the coaching of Cal Hughes, who was a past master at the game, the Trojans swept through the league schedule without a loss, climaxing the season with a 32





to 0 defeat of their ancient rivals, the Willows Honkers. They opened the season by defeating Chico High and put the topping on the dessert by defeating Fort Bragg in a post season game. That was the year when Darrell (Ole) Johnson, captain of the Trojans was the most feared fullback of the valley. "Ole" crashed through during the Willows game for two eighty-five-yard runs and was carried from the field by his victorious teammates. That was also the year of those "dynamite ankles" of flashy Jackie Thomas.

### Housing Authority

Orland housing was proving inadequate for the growing population and plans were launched for the Housing Project which culminated in the Orland Housing Authority and the building of the Housing Units after VJ Day utilizing surplus war housing units; a project which served its purpose well until the need was no longer present and the units were sold and torn down only a short time ago.

Orland had its sewage problems during those late war years. A commercial sewer line was run from the commercial area down to South street and on out to the disposal plant in the winter of 1944 at a cost of \$24,000.

School population that year in the elementary schools jumped to 600 and postal receipts at the end of 1944 were up 17 percent, \$24,000, less than half the postal receipts of 1954.

### "Long John" in Trouble

John Hostetter, nightwatchman off and on for years, and an excellent one at that, broke into the news in July of forty-four. John, known as "Long John," was a veteran of World War I. Being unable to read or write, John was a bit handicapped

when it came to giving a citation to a drunk driver, but did not know the word fear. John caught three out-of-townners stealing gas and promptly escorted them to the town bastille. As he leaned over to unlock the jail door, one of them conked "Long John" over the head with a bottle of gasoline he had when John arrested him. John was knocked out and the three prisoners escaped. John finally came to and the three were later caught and properly punished.

A campaign for an independent home-owned bank started that fall and prospects were bright for a time. Negotiations were started to take over the City Hall, a charter was applied for and then the bottom fell out of the entire idea when sufficient financing was not forthcoming.

Still deep in the war effort, an all-out campaign was launched for the Red Cross in the spring of 1945. With a quota of \$7,300, Orland went over the top in ten days and when the campaign finally closed, Orland had subscribed \$10,329, or forty-one percent over its quota.

### "Mike" Harrington Retires

Mike Harrington, business man and civic leader here for thirty-four years ended his active work as a pharmacist after 53 years, turning over his popular store to his son, Frank, who with his brother, Dick, still operates "Harrington's."

April 12, 1945! Over the radio came the word of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Flags were flown at half mast in Orland as in the rest of the nation and memorial services were held in Orland churches.

### VE Day in Orland

Less than a month later, May 8, 1945, came VE Day with the war



over in Europe. Orland along with all America had anticipated the day and received the news in a sober fashion, knowing the job was only half done. The school bands paraded that morning and afternoon, and all churches were thrown open for quiet meditation. Soon word came of returning prisoners of war; service men on the European battlefield began to return home. The long haul was nearly over.

Hastened by the A bomb, VJ Day which seemed years away on that VE Day of May, arrived on August 14, 1945 and Orland staged one of its typical celebrations. Stores closed, parades were formed, Harry Strawn again did the honors of firing the anvils. Special services were held at Memorial Hall with Charles K. Price as master of ceremonies. Peace had come to the nation and to Orland.

#### War Prisoners Return

And with peace came those soldiers and civilians who had been held in Japanese prison camps: Maurice Fuerst, Mary Spears Berry, former Orlander and sister of Mrs. Velma Lane, and her husband from Corregidor, Carl Noddin, Oldrick Roman; and the Orland boys who had seen service in the Pacific.

Orland with the rest of the nation quickly put war days into the past and began building once again for peace. But there was a difference in the air. Newcomers to the Land of Orland during previous decades, often remarked that the settlers here were older men and women compared with most sections of the state and with age, seemed to lack in some degree the daring of younger and more venture-some.

#### New Blood For Orland

With the end of the war, there

occurred a remarkable change in the Land of Orland. Younger men either from the service or from defense plants, seeking permanency, turned to farming in greater numbers than in decades, and the Land of Orland profited by this surge toward the land; young men taking the places of the older generations, bringing new ideas, new blood and new money. The enormous expansion of ladino clover both for seed and pasture; the leveling of vast acreages south and southeast of the Project for dairy and livestock pasture, these were but manifestations of the new life and new outlook for the entire mid-valley following the war.

Here the trek of former service men to California was felt in the Land of Orland as in every part of the Golden West. Orland schools again split at the seams and churches had to be pressed into use during the years immediately following the war until the program of school expansion which had been in mothballs during the war, could be put into operation.

It was in the fall of 1945, that Orland joined in celebrating the golden wedding of Charlie and Sarah King, popular Orland couple. That fall Steve Price, pioneer of the Newville country, died in Bakersfield at the age of 86. Hadassah Cleek Hamilton, daughter of the pioneer Cleeks, also died that fall. A. B. Campbell, business man here for years, who had gone to Nevada during the war years, died at Sparks in November, 1945.

#### Jane Lee Breakfast

A unique event was staged by the Orland Junior Women's Club, the first direct broadcast from Orland over a coast hookup; the "Jane Lee Breakfast" over KPO, on November 16th. The event gave





Orland considerable publicity, Orland products being featured.

Orland staged its first peacetime Christmas Party for the kids, on December 15th with Santa Claus and the usual pre-Yuletide trimmings. Orland High Trojans defeated the Willows Honkers that year, 18 to 0; and the Orland High Band, under the direction of Milton Kwate, took part in the Shrine East-West football game ceremonies at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco on New Year's Day.

#### Post War Boom Hits

In addition to the leveling and planting of huge acreages mostly watered by deep wells, business and industrial plants boomed. The PG&E prepared to build a permanent home in Orland by acquiring frontage on Fourth street, south of Colusa. The Rhodes Building on Walker street, now occupied by the postoffice, was constructed. The huge grain elevators at Artois were erected by the Berlinger Construction Co. Purity let the contract for the \$50,000 Purity store at Fourth and Mill. In 1946, the huge warehouse of Golden State across Swift street from the main plant was built.

#### Hospital Bubble Bursts

Orland for a time had visions of a large private hospital underwritten by William A. Jackson, owner of hospitals in Berkeley and Alvarado. The project got to the point where the Chamber of Commerce purchased a large tract of land, east of East street between Swift and Tehama as a site for the hospital. When the plan fell through and joined the long list of projects which never "jelled," the Chamber sold the tract for a substantial profit.

Many citizens of many years in Orland died in the year after the war; George A. Reager, son of Orland's first pioneers, prominent

in the community's and project's development and trustee of the town for years, on December 10th; Mrs. Jessie Mitchell Monroe, native daughter of Paskenta, the same year; Adam Lachenmyer, pioneer in the orange industry, on March 7th; Mrs. Frank S. Reager, daughter of B. N. Scribner, pioneer merchant of Newville and Orland, at her home at Ord, on March 27th; Madison H. Beck, father of Inman Beck, resident of the Land of Orland for twenty years and developer of the fine Beck ranch southwest of Orland, on March 31st.

#### Theta Rho Organizes

Orland obtained its second organization for teen-age girls on March 28th, 1946, when the Orland Theta Rho Girls Club was installed by Mrs. Ethel Louderback, local resident, President of the Rebekah State Assembly. The new club had twenty-nine charter members with Alice Johnson installed as its first president.

Orland schools packed to the limit, took steps to relieve the situation by voting building bonds on June 18, 1946 to the amount of \$85,000 with which the kindergarten and cafeteria were built. The vote for the bonds was 317 to 17, or 18 to 1.

#### Housing Unit Built

The scarcity of homes for returning war veterans was relieved somewhat by the construction of the Orland Housing Unit of twenty dwelling units on town property on Central street east of East street, operated by the newly formed Orland Housing Unit.

Tax delinquency in town and county dropped to a new low that year; .0022 percent in town and two percent in the county. Prosperity hit Orland following the war as it never had in over four decades.



In the final summary of war dead, released by the War Department in July 1946, thirty-two Glenn county boys were listed as having made the supreme sacrifice in the European and Pacific war front.

Young blood was injected into one of the larger business houses of Orland when Gene and Vern Graham, home from the war, bought out the Tandy Grocery, formerly Scearce & Franke, operating the well known grocery today.

In September of 1946, the contract was let for the annex to the Mill Street school, that portion which now houses the kindergarten and the cafeteria, one of the community centers for smaller groups these days. The contract for the entire job was \$81,347.

Tug of war contests between towns and organizations were an attraction at the 1946 Fair when the first post-war fair was held with an attendance of 14,000, in the four-day event. The premium list offered \$38,000 in awards that year.

#### **Rotary Club is Formed**

Two civic organizations, both still going strong were organized in the spring of 1947-48; the Orland Rotary Club receiving its charter on May 7th with twenty-five members and J. A. Russell as president. The Orland Sportsmen's Club to promote hunting and fishing especially within the Land of Orland, was formed with Ted Bruce as the first president.

In February as the culmination of a Mexican feud, a Mexican National killed a fellow worker burying the body in a drainage ditch on Anchorage Farm. He was convicted and given a life sentence.

Death came to three well known Orlanders that fall and spring;

Preston Simpson, popular local hatchery owner, son of the pioneer, Noah Simpson, on August 25th; C. A. Pendleton, owner of the local theatre, in October; and Mrs. H. O. Williams, wife of the high school principal and prominent in civic, veteran, lodge and school affairs of Orland.

Earl Asdell, popular Project manager, was transferred that year to Reclamation work in Wyoming, holding responsible jobs in that area until his recent retirement. Both Earl and his wife, Hattie, were sadly missed in Orland community activities. Robert Hollis took Asdell's place as Project manager and holds that position today.

1947 was a year of below normal rainfall and shortage of stored waters in the two Orland reservoirs, the first in a decade.

#### **Three Disastrous Fires**

Orland had three disastrous fires in the spring of 1947. St. Dominic's Catholic church, one of the oldest buildings in Orland and a landmark since the early eighties, was gutted by fire shortly before midnight on March 15, 1947. On April 26th, the Safeway Store, located on the southside of Walker street at the alley, was badly damaged by smoke from a fire in the rear which threatened the business block. On June 11, 1947, the Shell warehouse and office south of town, went up in flames.

With only 76,000 acre-feet stored, and an exceptionally early drain on the reservoirs, the allotment of water was cut to 2.4 acre-feet per acre for the Project farmers, on April 17th.

#### **Sewage Bonds Defeated**

On May 6, 1947, due partly to the shortage of stored water and lack of cooperative effort, only one of three bond issues for civic





improvement was approved. An issue of \$13,000 for a new fire truck carried by a vote of 280 to 120 in a very light vote while a bond issue of \$170,000 for a new sewage plant and one for \$22,000 for additional water mains were defeated, the former by a vote of 215 to 184; the latter, 248 to 150.

H. O. Williams after fourteen years as principal of Orland High, a record, resigned to accept a position in Butte county, and J. A. Russell, a member of the faculty, was named to fill the position.

Dr. T. A. Poulsen arrived to open medical offices in Orland on June 11th, later building the fine medical center at Yolo and Railroad avenue, he and Dr. Fred Ely occupy today.

#### Mel Haigh Is Honored

On June 15th, Mel Haigh, supervisor of this district, now county highway commissioner, was honored. The air field built during the war on the Crocker tract for the Chico Air Field forces, was purchased by Glenn county and at impressive ceremonies, under the auspices of the Orland Chamber of Commerce, was formally dedicated "Haigh Field."

Project farmers obtained a bit of relief by careful conservation of irrigation water and the allotment on July 7th was upped to 2.7 acre-feet, but that irrigation season was a close squeak for many a water user.

Much to do was made that fall over the increased assessed valuations in the county and town as a sign of greater prosperity. The county assessed values were upped 17.6 and the Town of Orland added a million dollars in assessed valuation. But in reality, it was so much bookwork for the increased values were the result of a thorough recheck of all properties, done by trained men ac-

cording to definite formula rather than the hit and guess method of early days.

#### 280 in Swim Classes

The annual swimming school sponsored by the local Red Cross enrolled 280 that fall with 150 youngsters who could not swim a stroke. Annually the annual swim courses has taught hundreds of young fry how to swim.

The water users got another boost on August 4th when the water allotment was again boosted, this time to three acre-feet. A hearing by the State Board of Health on Orland's vexing sewage disposal problem, resulted in a lot of testimony and little action in late August.

The Orland elementary school began to feel the wave of war babies with an enrollment of 803, a 13 percent increase, but Orland High was yet to get this tide of new citizens, the enrollment being only 312.

#### Exhibit Hall Needed

The 1947 Fair outgrowing spacious Flaherty Hall, had to bring in a huge canvas top to take care of the increasing exhibits that year and plans were laid for another permanent exhibit hall. A total of \$17,000 was paid out in premiums that year with an attendance of 18,426, an increase of 4,172 over 1946.

Two deaths in one prominent family occurred within days of each other; Ross Brownell, born on the famed Brownell Rancho in 1871, on September 23rd and Mrs. Roy Brownell, prominent club-woman, on October 3rd.

#### Orland Eagles Aerie Here

Orland added a new fraternal organization when on November 4th, the Orland Aerie of Eagles was installed with Bob Owen as president.



M. G. Haigh resigned in November to take over the job of county highway commissioner, a position made far more important by the passage of the Collier Highway bill diverting state funds to county roads. Haigh holds that job today giving to Glenn county roads and highways surpassed by no county of the state. Governor Warren on December 11th named Marshall Lane as Haigh's successor as supervisor; and Lane elected the following year, has become a political power to the advantage of the Land of Orland at the county seat and in the state capitol halls.

#### Nita Millsap Honored

It was in November 1947 that a deserved but unexpected honor came to one of Orland's most thoughtful housewives. Mrs. Tom Millsap on Mother's Day years ago established the unique custom of having as her guests at a dinner on Mother's Day, a dozen or so mothers and friends who otherwise would have found Mother's Day only another day. Mrs. Millsap was named "Good Neighbor of the Week" on Tom Brenneman's "Breakfast in Hollywood" radio show and an orchid was flown from the home of movies to Mrs. Millsap.

Two men intimately connected for a quarter of a century with the Project died that fall; E. T. Eriksen, who as watermaster did such a fine job for the project with the landowners along Stony Creek, in Portland on October 13th; and Dave Sanford, who in the early days of the project leveled acres and acres of project lands for water using the ancient Fresno and horse and mule teams, and later was ditch rider for the Project until his retirement. Dave died at Gridley where he and his wife, "Aunt Bessie", had moved only a short time previously.

#### Jess Bequette on the Job

The early days of 1948 brought good news for the Glenn County Fair with the state approval of the new Exhibit Hall and this new building, still without a suitable name, was ready for the 1949 Fair. The offices of fair secretary and Chamber of Commerce secretary were united that spring with Jess Bequette taking over the double job; a job he filled well until he joined the extension service. George Cantwell, who had done the pioneer work since the fair was resumed following the war, accepted the position as head office man in Haigh's road department, and is still making good at the county seat. Mrs. Cantwell, top assistant, was retained and today is still top assistant at the fair office, handling the thousand and one petty office details which do not show but are necessary for a well-oiled and smoothly running Fair.

Folks out at the north end of Capay, a bit irked by being the stepchild of Tehama county, especially on roads, stirred up a tempest in a teapot, and actually got enough signatures to petitions to seek to secede from Tehama and join Glenn. Tehama supervisors however brushed them off with sweet promises, some of which are still to be fulfilled.

#### Constable Walter Hicks Dies

Two deaths of pioneers occurred in January, 1948; May E. Birch, registered pharmacist and business woman, a power in the WCTU movement for years, a native of Chrome, born in 1871; and Walter Hicks, peace officer in Orland for thirty-two years, a native of the Land of Orland, born in 1874. Memorial Hall was pressed into service for the first time for a funeral, for Constable Hicks.





His wife died less than a month later.

### **Brownout Is Ordered**

The Land of Orland, still jittery from the close shave from a water shortage in 1947, along with the rest of the state, faced critical days early in 1948, when the usual late winter rains failed to materialize. So short was the stored water in the power reservoirs, that a statewide brownout to conserve power was ordered. So black was the picture that on March 4th the stored water, amounting to only 34 percent of the capacity of the lakes, was prorated at 1.1 acre-feet. But on March 21st, the long dry spell was broken and one of the wettest springs on record saved the day.

By the middle of June the two reservoirs were practically filled and no shortage of water, which appeared certain in early spring, was experienced. That spring, 1948, the water users wisely filed for 50,000 acre-feet of stored water behind Black Butte dam, the flood control dam at the buttes eight miles northwest of Orland, a dam still on the drawing board.

### **Open House at Purity**

Purity held Open House on April 3rd in their fine new store at Mill and Fourth, Norm Railton, as manager, doing the honors. A new business which added considerably to Orland's retail district was the opening of Erickson's Home Furnishings on February 11th of that year, a store which has since expanded into its own home on Colusa street.

Gross farm incomes for the previous year, reported by P. V. Harrigan, county agricultural commissioner, were \$27,935,000, up from \$18,577,000 only three years previously, giving an idea of the steadily growing prosperity of Glenn county. Postal receipts

for that year jumped to \$34,918.45, an increase of ten percent over the previous year, 1946.

### **Five Deaths in Two Months**

Five deaths of prominent people occurred in the first two months of 1948; Mrs. Addah Scearce, who during her forty-five years in Orland, was a wise and enthusiastic civic leader, a prominent clubwoman, a member of the elementary school board for years, the first president of Orland's Red Cross Chapter, and a prominent member of the DAR; Dr. Mary Poket, physician at Hamilton City for nearly thirty years; James Mills, Sr., founder of Mills Orchard and regent of the University of California; and Ray West, rancher of St. John and author of the "Story of St. John," who died while vacationing in faraway Chile; and Mrs. W. H. Hightower, daughter of pioneers, and prominent in Orland's civic life for years.

### **Orland PTA is Formed**

In the spring of 1948, a long sought institution came into being in Orland, the Orland Parent-Teachers Association, which has proven a powerful force in the educational life of the community.

The fine new school plant, over on Marin between Chapman and South street, since aptly named "The Charles K. Price School", was made possible that spring by the voting of bonds by the amazing vote of 671 to 25 or better than 28 to 1.

A military funeral was given that spring for George Schab, who died March 30th. George lived in Orland twenty-seven years and was a past commander of the local Legion Post. N. W. Hickman died that spring. He had succeeded his brother at the local hardware store, when G. M. Hick-



man died in 1937. The well known store is operated today by Berlinger Bros., Doc and Johnny.

#### Heintz Named Postmaster

Jack Heintz won the plum of postmaster that summer of 1948, succeeding J. N. Tibessart who retired. Less than a year later the postoffice moved into its present quarters on Walker street from Fourth and Colusa, where it had been housed for almost twenty-five years.

The water users of the Project adopted a three year improvement program at an estimated cost of \$200,000; the high line flume rebuilding; Stony Gorge needle valve repairs, concrete sluiceway at Rainbow Dam and repairs to the feed canal.

In July 1948 the Glenn County Draft Board was organized with James Boyd and W. A. Knowles of Willows and Charles K. Price of Orland selected as members by Governor Earl Warren.

#### Classes in Memorial Hall

Orland elementary schools were again busting at the seams and six classes were put in makeshift classrooms in Memorial Hall while the present Charles K. Price school was being constructed.

Young Jim Lynn, only a few years out of high school, was killed that July in a logging accident near Laytonville. John Masterson, pioneer of the Newville country, died at the age of 80, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Tom Millsaps in August.

The 1948 Fair opened with the morning parade but the annual school parade was marred by a heavy rainstorm. Running through Sunday for the first time, an elaborate musical concert climaxed Fair Week featuring the famous Cornish Singing Group

from Grass Valley, and incidentally Henry Hosking's father was a prominent member of this group; and the Sacramento Girls' choir.

#### Mario Fortini Dies

Two deaths of prominent citizens occurred that September Mario Fortini was the colorful son of an Italian silk magnate, who with his wife, Ethel, a cultured English woman, developed the Fortini farm out in Loam Ridge. Mario, in ill health and worried by financial troubles, took his own life on September 1st. He was prominent in the orange growers association, in the olive growers association but his first love was his herd of fine registered Jerseys of which "Jewel of Tintagel," was his pride, winning all the blue ribbons offered at state and county fairs.

The other death was that of Andrew Kaiser, immigrant as a youth of fifteen from Germany, owner of vast grain acreages. It was Kaiser who pioneered the bulk handling of grain in the valley, all grain up to that time being sacked as it came from the harvesters. Kaiser, in face of "Doubting Thomases," built the first huge grain elevators down on his ranches near Monroeville. Kaiser was killed in an auto wreck southeast of Orland on September 26th.

#### Sweet Chapel Built

In the fall of 1948 work was started on the modern funeral home for Orland, the present chapel of F. D. Sweet & Son at Mill and A streets. Black Butte dam was constantly in the news as it is today, and still the first shovel of earth is yet to be turned. The California Water Resource Board and Reclamation officials toured the site in October and





put their official OK on it, as have many similar bodies since that time.

A thirty-six bed hospital for Glenn County was approved, and the Green Light was given that fall for the construction of the Exhibit Hall at the Glenn County Fairgrounds.

November 2, 1948 was a red letter day for the Land of Orland and Glenn county when the voters by a vote of 3189 to 1174 approved the establishment of the University Agriculture Extension Service for the county, after years of doing without this service due to quarrels and bickerings, the causes of which were almost forgotten after two decades.

#### Valley Canals Project Starts

November 15th of that year was another red letter day when a group of irrigation-minded men under the inspired leadership of Clair Engle, Congressman, met at Corning and formed the Sacramento Valley Irrigation Committee. The sole purpose of the new organization and one to which the members have held steadfast in spite of efforts to lure them into other paths, was obtaining of Sacramento river water for the unirrigated acres of the four counties, Butte, Tehama, Glenn and Colusa. This was to be accomplished by the formation of districts in the Sacramento Valley Canals Project and making this project a part of the Central Valley Project. This latter aim has been accomplished and the construction of the dam at Red Bank, south of Red Bluff and the building of the canals, along with the formation of the necessary water districts; all of these are recent history.

Clair Engle was not only the inspiration of that meeting but

the entire plan including the proposed Trinity River project which is tied in closely with the Sacramento project, is Engle's brain-child. He it was who engineered the entire idea along with the technical knowledge of Jim Carr, head of the Chico office of the Bureau of Reclamation at that time; and it is still Clair Engle who is battling for sufficient appropriations to complete the Project. Present at this "birthing" of the Canals Project at Corning from Orland were Reeve Barceloux, Lester J. Jacobs, Don Keene and L. W. Wigmore.

#### Mail Robbery in Orland

Orland's only recorded mail robbery was cleared up that fall when four armed men were arrested at Santa Clara for breaking into the mail room at the Southern Pacific station and rifling the mail sacks ready for dispatch on the late train. They admitted that the Orland job was only one of many they had handled during the previous years.

Christmas of 1948 brought to Orland its first white Christmas in years, snow to the depth of three inches greeting the youngsters that Christmas morning. The sixty-foot Coffey outdoor Christmas tree, a towering deodar, with its white mantle of snow, glistened as never before with its 700 colored lights.

Orland oranges were hard hit by frost a few days before Christmas and another freeze on January 4th ruined the crop still on the trees that year. Another snow-storm left two inches in the Land of Orland on January 11th.

#### First Community Carnival

Another distinctly Orland institution was launched on February 12th when the first Community Carnival was held, an in-



stitution which under the leadership of Mrs. Marjorie Keene, has become a "bigger and better" community event each spring.

The makeshift classes in Memorial Hall moved to the completed school at Marin and South, later named the Charles K. Price school, honoring the present superintendent of schools. Glenn county's farm income for 1948, according to P. V. Harrigan, jumped to \$27,070,000 for the year 1948.

#### Park Committee Formed

The Orland Park Committee, a bone of contention for years was formed with restricted powers, due to insistent demands of the Orland Junior Women's Club. The committee was made up of W. B. Taylor, Marjorie Keene, Jack Heintz, Nelda Sweet and Councilman George Sturm. Mrs. Sweet still serves on this committee which has taken over the care of the parks and the recreational program and is now the efficient chairman, serving with Mrs. Ruby Baugher, Lester J. Jacobs, Wim Lely and Norman Johansen.

Three deaths occurred that spring; Mrs. W. A. Smithousen, on March 1st; Mrs. Elizabeth Templeton Scribner on March 15th; and S. D. Koons, pioneer farmer of the Project since 1903, suddenly on April 1st. Mrs. Scribner had lived 64 years in Orland serving as one of the first postmasters and was a charter member of the Orland Women's Improvement Club.

March of 1949 was a wet month, setting a record of 11.62 inches of rain and both dams overflowed by the 15th of that month. The March of Dimes set a new record with a collection of \$2,800.31 that spring, an insignificant amount in face of the contributions of recent years.

#### School Bonds Defeated

The bond issue of \$295,000 for new buildings at Orland High including a new gymnasium and football bleachers, after an indifferent campaign, was defeated on April 5, 1949, in a light vote by 370 to 383. In May, a building tax of fifty cents for the elementary schools was approved by a vote of 224 to 136.

The Pet Milk company, better known as Sego, entered the Orland area on April 21st, when they bought out Golden State, and the familiar brand of Pet milk was made from milk from Orland dairy farms.

Frances Hicks, widow of P. K. Hicks and daughter of Corwin French, engineer on the original work of the Project, died on April 10th. She taught school here before her marriage and was prominent in club and church work.

#### Delegation to Washington

The first delegation seeking authorization of the Valley Canals Project, was sent to Washington to testify at hearings. In the delegation, with Congressman Engle and James Carr as ex-officio members, were Max Vann, Williams; Tom Kees, Corning; A. W. Bramwell, Chico; and P. V. Harrigan, Willows.

In March of that year, 1949, one of Orland's best known citizens, George A. Barceloux died. President of the Bank of Orland at the time of the formation of the Project until that institution merged with the Bank of America, then manager of the Orland Branch of that bank until the First National was swallowed up by the chain, and co-manager until his retirement, George Barceloux had served practically every newcomer to the Land of Orland during those years of influx of new settlers. His large home on





the highway south of town where he and his wife, Emma, raised the five Barceloux boys, Clem, Leo, Reeve, Melvin and Edgar, was a showplace and his widow and son, Leo, still live in that Barceloux home.

#### Stony Bridge Accident

The first of a series of tragic auto accidents on the narrow Stony Creek bridge on Highway 99W north of Orland occurred in June 28, 1949 when two youngsters were killed in a collision with an oil truck. Aroused to the danger of this bottleneck with blind approaches, agitation finally prodded the highway authorities to double line the approaches and finally to widen the bridge. But not before several other tragic accidents occurred on the antiquated structure built in 1915.

#### Roy Berlinger Killed

Tragedy stalked the Land of Orland that fall, the most tragic occurring on September 8th. Attempting to land his light plane in one of those fall gusty winds, Roy Berlinger, successful construction engineer and business man of Chico, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Berlinger, Sr., of Orland, crashed to his death on the narrow runway at the Kendrick Masterson ranch, in the foothills, twelve miles west of Orland. Headed for a late afternoon dove hunt, Berlinger had as his passenger-guests, Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Halbert, Chico couple. Mrs. Halbert was also instantly killed while Halbert, painfully injured, lay beside the wrecked plane and the bodies of his wife and friend all night until he was able to summon help the following morning from a passing motorist.

"Andy" Hodge, one of those rare individualists of the Old West type, died after a long illness in

San Francisco. Hodge was a plunger, making and losing many a fortune in his day; not the least of which was the fortune he made in Kadota and black figs of the Land of Orland which for years had no market until prices boomed during the war.

#### Park Trees Girdled

Orland had a tempest in a teapot when Councilman J. W. Rhodes decided to get rid of the huge Silver Poplar trees in the Library Park by having them girdled; and tree lovers descended like a swarm of hornets onto him. An effort was made to patch up the girdled trees but to no avail and the entire lot had to be cut out finally.

The Fair that year, 1949, getting into its stride and with money easy, broke all postwar attendance records. The Orland Branch of the Bank of America celebrated the facelifting job at their headquarters with an "Open House" on July 9th. R. W. Franzen, better known as Bob Franzen became an Orland citizen coming from Salinas to manage the local Sego plant August 1st, filling the position held so many years by C. E. "Tiny" Polzin, who had resigned.

#### Milton Miller to Orland

Glenn county and Orland added another valuable citizen that fall when Milton Miller, tops of the entire staff of available men, was named head of the University Extension Service, housed in the County Building here and proceeded in making that Service not only outstanding in Glenn county but in the entire State.

The recently completed St. Dominic's Catholic church, the building of which had been handled largely by Rev. Father Anthony Dosch, the present resident priest, was blessed by church



dignitaries from Sacramento and valley towns in an impressive ceremony, held on September 25, 1949.

### Ide Is Honored

William B. Ide, leader of the Bear Flag Rebellion and first clerk of the newly formed Colusa county in 1850, was honored by the dedication of a monument only a short distance from the ghost town of Monroeville where he died of small pox. The monument south of Hamilton City and St. John was constructed and dedicated by the Colusa Parlor of the Native Daughters of California on October 9, 1949.

The Black Butte Dam, still on paper, seemed somewhat nearer construction when President Truman on October 13th, signed the bill authorizing \$95,000 for the initial surveys for the dam.

That same fall, November 15th, Orland had a distinguished guest at a dinner meeting in Maple Hall when Michael Straus, commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, paid Orland an official visit with Marshall Lane, president of the Orland Chamber of Commerce as the Emcee.

### That 32 to 20 Game

Football fans will long remember the Little Big Game at Willows that November 11, 1949. The Orland Trojans, suffering their annual Willows jitters, trailed in a miserable showing 7 to 20 at the half. But Jack Sims' Trojans, was a different team that second half, outplaying and outsmarting the Honkers to win 32 to 20. The annual Trojan football dinner at the conclusion of the season was a Victory Dinner with Eddie LeBaron, football ace of the College of the Pacific and nephew of

Coach Jack Sims, as the guest of honor.

Death came to a number of well known Orlanders that fall and winter; John Van Kirk in the Southland; Landon Curtis at the Veterans' Hospital; W. D. Funk, retired Reclamation official, at Enloe Hospital; Mrs. Edith Parlin, resident here for twenty-five years, in Chico; E. S. Snodgrass, 85, resident farmer for more than a quarter of a century and high school trustee for many years; Emerson E. (Dud) Martin, graduate of Orland high and banker here for years, the last of the Martin-Flaherty clan, in Willows; A. E. (Bert) Royce, manager of the People's Store here for years, at Fall River Mills.

### Six Inches of Snow

January of 1950 brought six inches of snow to Orland on the 16th of the month. It also brought the good news that the Orland postoffice had at last attained first class rating, the gross for the previous year just over the necessary figure; \$40,517.86, an increase of 12½ percent.

A tragic accident occurred at the local school on May 19, 1949 when young Donald Cleek, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cleek, was fatally injured when he was hit by a baseball bat in the hands of another student. A suit for \$35,000 against the local school district was settled out of court on October 1, 1952.

### Polio Sweetheart

It was in the 1950 March of Dimes Drive that the unique contest, "The March of Dimes Sweetheart" contest was held, the inspiration for this contest coming from the Orland Farm Veterans Association. The spirited contest ended at the March of Dimes Ball





with Barbara Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Taylor, candidate of the Orland Kiwanis Club, being named Sweetheart. Her attendants were Iris Martin, Leatha Siemens, Helen Nichols, Irma Levett, Wanda Benson, Janette Smith, Bonnie Rector and Tessie Hibdon. The March of Dimes total that year was \$3300.

The Colusi Historical Society with many members came into being that spring of 1950 with Frank S. Reager, authority on early valley history, as its first president and with 295 charter members. The gross farm revenue for the previous year, reported by Commissioner Harrigan, amounted to \$24,820,000, setting a new high.

#### First Orland Triplets

The Land of Orland rated first page stories in the metropolitan newspapers on March 26, 1950, when Orland's first triplets were born at Enloe Hospital. Merritt Charles, Marsha Jeanne and Marlene Jean Erickson! One boy and two girls, born to Mr. and Mrs. Milfred Erickson. All healthy youngsters entering Orland kindergarten this fall.

The Orland Junior Women's Club rated in the news too, when in May the local club was awarded first place in its division in the contest based on "Build A Better Community." With Vinsonhaler Park as their project, the local club topped every other club of its division in the state in building a better community, winning a sizeable cash award.

On June 17, 1950, Shasta Dam, the construction of which, was slowed down by the war, was formally dedicated as the keystone of the Central Valley Project.

#### Census Shows 2,057

Orland awaited impatiently the results of the 1950 census. While disappointing to some, the total of 2,057 within the city limits showed a growth in ten years of 50.8 percent, compared to Willows with 2,988, a growth of 34.9 percent; Colusa, 3,021, or 31.9 percent and Chico with 12,210, an increase of 31.4 percent.

#### Deputy Sheriffs Murdered

On May 25, 1950, two youths, Robert Sturm, 19, raised in Orland, and James McKay, 18, Sacramento were captured near the state line at Tahoe and charged with the brutal murder of two Shasta county deputy sheriffs, while the two youths were being returned from the State of Washington to face minor charges. Both were convicted of murder in the Shasta county superior court and both are serving life terms for their rash act.

Charles Thode died on June 3, 1950 at Willows after a short illness. Charlie was practically a native son of Orland, being manager of the PG&E for years here until he stepped upstairs to the district managership. He was prominent in a score of Orland civic and club activities. He was succeeded by his brother, Herman Thode, who recently retired after nearly a half century of service with the PG&E.

#### Trinity River Project

In July, 1950, the Trinity River Project the brain child of Congressman Clair Engle, appeared in print for the first time. Today the project has been authorized and actual work is expected to start on this huge addition to the Central Valley Project in the next six months; a project which will turn a river through the



Trinity mountains and dump it into the Sacramento. Especially important to the mid-valley is the fact that a portion of this water which has been running to waste into the Pacific, has been earmarked for use to assure an adequate water supply for the Sacramento River Canals Project which will water thousands of acres of Glenn, Tehama, Butte, Colusa and Yolo counties.

Two young Orlanders entered the downtown business world in July of 1950 when Walter and John Berlinger, Jr., took over the long established hardware business of G. M. Hickman & Co., founded in the first years of the Project.

### Polio Strikes Again

Polio struck the Land of Orland many times in July and August of that year; Ann Polzin, Ronnie Tharpe, Lenney Tharpe, Charles Erickson, Patricia Brainard, Marilyn Parker, Fred Romer. All were patients at Childrens' Hospital but little Ronnie Tharpe, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Tharpe of the Calumet district, was hardest hit. Though crippled and in a wheel chair Ronnie has carried on a normal life, continuing in the local school with his class and graduating in June, 1955, among the top students. The epidemic was so severe that the Orland swimming pool was closed as a health precaution on August 20th.

Three deaths of well known Orlanders occurred that fall; Mrs. Anna Beck, resident southwest of Orland for a quarter of a century and mother of Inman Beck, on August 4th; Mrs. Will Sanford, resident here for a half century, on Nov. 4th; and Ellwood Thode at Oak Knoll hospital, brilliant eldest son of Mrs. Ed. Thode and the late Ed. Thode on Nov. 9th,

of a disease he had contracted in the South Pacific, while serving as a Lieutenant-Commander during and after the war.

Rain rang down the curtain on the final night of the 1950 Glenn County Fair, when a storm drenched the huge Sunday night crowd.

### Junior Women's Club

A new women's club came into being that fall when the Capay Junior Women's Club was formed with Mrs. Lillian Edwards as the first president. Three new business houses were built by William R. Cook on Fifth street to house three going businesses, crowded out of the former Hicks Building when Booth brothers bought the building and moved their business from the Chico-Orland highway into town that fall.

September 26, 1950 was a Red Letter Day for the Sacramento Irrigation Committee as President Truman signed the Engle-sponsored bill authorizing the River Canals Project and making it a part of the Central Valley Project.

### Trojan Bleacher Fund

In the fall of 1950, the Orland Trojan bleachers bond issue of \$5,000 was oversubscribed when student-salesmen did a fine job of promotion. The project was spearheaded by W. B. Taylor as chairman, and resulted in the building of the 1000-seat bleachers at the north side of Roosevelt Field at Orland High. Incidentally these bonds were paid off in three years from receipts from the Trojan football games.

The worst storm in twelve years hit Orland on October 12, 1950 with a 65-mile wind. All power for the entire area was off for fourteen hours while PG&E crews worked through the night to





mend broken lines and transformers.

Health was in the news that fall. The contract was let for the fine clinic for Dr. T. S. Poulsen at the corner of Yolo Street and Railroad Avenue on November 5th and the \$400,000 Glenn General Hospital at Willows was dedicated on November 19th. At the end of that year, Drs. S. E. Coffey and E. C. Coffey retired from active practice in Orland after twenty-one years of service here.

Ann Polzin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Polzin, one of those who suffered polio the previous year, was named "March of Dimes Sweetheart" at the spring of 1951 polio drive when over \$7,000 was subscribed.

#### Leads in Clover Seed

Glenn county definitely took the leadership in the production of Ladino clover seed when the records showed that in the previous harvest season, this county produced sixty percent of the Ladino clover seed of the state.

In March, 1951, by a vote of nearly four to one, 547 to 138, the citizens voted for a \$100,000 school bond issue to build the first unit of the Fairview school on the new school campus near the Fairgrounds.

Two business men and one prominent farmer died that fall and winter; Art Kronsbein, builder here for forty-three years; W. E. Searce, native son, banker and business man of Orland on April 4th, and Tod Ford, prominent farmer and orchardist, who took his own life on May 24th. Two former prominent Orland women also passed away, Mrs. Nora Harrington in Sacramento who had come to Orland with her husband, Mike, back in 1911, and was prominent in club work, civic work and church work dur-

ing her many years in Orland; and Mrs. Ethel Greenwood at Stockton on June 26th, resident and active civic worker in Orland for years.

Early in 1950, Jess Bequette resigned as secretary-manager of the Glenn County Fair to assume the duties as one of the farm advisors, and Dick Walker of Willows was named in April to fill that position, a position he has filled proficiently since that time.

#### CVP Dedicated

Culminating years of effort and a decade of actual construction, the Central Valley Project officially became a reality when on August 2, 1951, the first of a series of ceremonies was held starting at Shasta Dam when stored water, dyed a deep blue, was released into the vast statewide system.

The most successful Fair since the end of the war drew a record crowd in 1951 for the five days of 32,141, an increase of 2,500 over the previous year. The Glenn County Fair ranked ninth in the amount of premiums offered, being exceeded only by some of the major fairs of the state.

#### Heavy Toll of Leaders

Death took a heavy toll that fall of prominent citizens: Warren N. Woodson, father of Corning and leader in small farm development in the valley; Louis Martin Reager, son of one of Orland's first settlers, principal of the Orland Elementary school years before the Project was formed, and first principal of the Orland High school; H. M. Keene, retired editor of the Orland Unit, who for thirty-six years had played a prominent part in the civic activities of Orland; W. E. Johnson, attorney here for a quarter of a century; Murry C. Finch, farmer here since the



Project was formed.

The Orland Post Office after being housed at Colusa and Fourth streets for over two decades, moved on October 1st, to its new quarters on Walker street. Through the efforts of the Orland Junior Women's Club, fifty permanent street signs were erected at practically all street intersections in Orland.

#### Boy Scouts Lost

December of that year brought a scare into the homes of five Boy Scouts. Attempting to take a short cut through the snow back to camp near Patton Mill where Troop 4 was cutting Christmas trees for the annual sale, five scouts missed the camp. They wandered down below the snow line, and using their scout lore, spent the night in a sheltered spot. In the meantime over fifty joined the searching party and spent the entire night seeking the lost scouts. Early next morning the five, Walter Sutherland, Bobby Bruce, Bill Mosier, Duane Brouse and Jerry Saunders, heard a truck pass above their night camp and they made their way to the road and safety.

That year, 1951, saw real prosperity in the Orland Project. Project lands yielded crops worth \$1,820,608, or an average of \$106.-28 per acre. Over 300,000 pounds, in ten cars, of dressed turkeys were shipped from Orland that fall and winter.

#### Sheriff is Killed

Orland and all Glenn county were shocked by the tragic automobile accident on Highway 99W near Dunnigan on December 26th, when Hal Singleton, popular sheriff, and an aged Anderson couple were killed in a two-car crash. Lyle Sale, who was named a short time later as Singleton's successor, was seriously injured in the crash.

Barbara Holt was named "March of Dimes" Sweetheart in the 1952 campaign when over \$8,900 was raised in the polio drive, under the able direction of "Tiny" Polzin.

George (Hap) Hafer became one of the farm advisors in the Extension work in January and farm products of the county for the previous year were at an all time high of \$39,500,000.

Two men prominent in Orland for years died that spring; Dr. G. E. Rawlins in Berkeley, former councilman, past president of Kiwanis and past master of the Orland Masonic lodge; and R. C. E. Weber at Laurel, Ind., former project manager and former past master and district inspector of the Masonic lodge.

#### Four Big Events

Four important events in three different fields hit the headlines in the spring of 1952; the formation of the Glenn County Cardinals, in an unusual cooperative effort of Willows and Orland baseball fans; appointment of Charles K. Price as superintendent of schools of both the high school district and elementary district; the formation of the drainage district by 177 farmers southeast of Orland; and the formation of a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi in Orland.

#### Tragic Deaths in Canal

Another tragedy hit Orland on May 6, 1952, when Clifford Ross, local farmer, driving home from Chico, missed the turn onto the bridge across the Glenn-Colusa canal on the Wyo road and plunged into the canal, losing his life and the lives of three of his children and that of a neighbor boy, Thomas L. Kane of Capay.

The spring of 1952 brought death to five well known Orland





citizens; Mrs. Viola Hardy on April 15th; Kendrick Masterson, former councilman, on May 1st; Mrs. V. C. Cleek, native daughter of Orland, on May 2nd; Fremont Ashurst Graves, known as Col. Graves, resident of the Land of Orland for over seventy-five years, on May 5th; and Mrs. Ann Carolyn Wright, widow of George E. Wright, first mayor of Orland, on May 22nd.

### School Parade Missing

The 1952 Glenn County Fair lacked one traditional attraction. For the first time in the history of the Fair, there was no colorful school parade. Lagging interest in the event, eliminated this excellent attraction and the event has never been revived. An addition to the Fair that year was the spacious well planned new Administration Building, headquarters for the entire fair, allowing additional exhibit space in the Exhibit Hall.

Two new business houses took shape that fall, the new home for the Erickson's Home Furnishings on Colusa where Open House was held just before the holidays; and the fine new home for Bucke Feed & Grain on Highway 99W at the south end of town, a building with 22,000 square feet of floor space and unequalled in its appointments by any similar building in the valley.

A tragic automobile accident occurred just before the Fair that year when Mrs. Amiel Kaiser of Ord area was killed in a crash at Woodward and Walker streets. Five others were injured in the crash, including Mrs. Stella Click.

Mrs. Louise Lane, civic and church leader in Orland for thirty-five years, died after a short illness on July 1st, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Don Keene.

The Orland Clutch Riders Club under the able leadership of Jim Morehouse and Traffic Officer Leon Walters, won statewide acclaim for their excellent program of safe driving.

Polio struck again that fall, with three cases in Orland, all of them adults.

### 24,751 at The Fair

The Glenn County Fair in 1952 drew a total of 24,751 patrons, down two percent from the previous year largely due to two cold cloudy days.

After controversy, the city fathers passed the new zoning ordinance opening up Walker street for the most part to retail business houses.

Orland Lutherans celebrated the golden anniversary of the establishment of First Lutheran church in Orland on November 14th with a three day event.

Two well-known prominent Orlanders died that fall; Roy Brownell the last of the Brownell brothers, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Brownell, pioneers of African valley, on October 26th; and Ray Nighbert, leader in a dozen community efforts, the Boosters Club, the fire department, the plane spotting project during the war and a director of the Glenn County Fair for a number of years, on December 10th.

### Bad Fire Downtown

The business section of Orland was threatened by a disastrous fire on December 27th, when the Cleek flower shop in the Dunwoody Building on Fourth street was gutted by flames. Only efficient work by the Orland Fire Department saved many business houses that night.

### Take Over Project

A momentous decision was made by the Orland Water Users association on January 31, 1953.



when by a vote of 4,993 to 1,568, the association decided to take over the operation and maintenance of the Project. The decision long in the making, had the full blessing of the Bureau of Reclamation and was made in an effort to cut down needless overhead and red tape. The actual transfer was made at an informal ceremony in October of that year. The Bureau still maintained an interest in the Project to protect its remaining interests in the physical assets of the Project.

Over \$8,000 was raised in the polio drive in 1953 when Peggy Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Taylor, was crowned the March of Dimes Sweetheart. Janice Gay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Gay, was stricken by polio that spring.

#### Big Farm Income

Glenn county set up a new record for the year of 1952 in farm production, the total being \$42,473,180, an increase of over \$3 million, the top crop again being rice.

The Orland Council of the Knights of Columbus was formed on March 10, 1953 with fifty charter members.

Two Orlanders, one a pioneer and a native daughter, died that spring; Mrs. Ida May Papst, who was the widow of Albert Papst, Orland's first merchant, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hambright after whom Hambright Creek was named, on April 8th; and R. J. Yates, 83, outstanding hog breeder who with his fine hogs had been an institution at the Glenn County Fair for years.

#### City Mail Delivery

City mail delivery for Orland sought for over a decade, was given the official approval on May 27th, and became a fact just before the holidays.

Orland citizens showed their faith in their community on May 15th when they voted by 663 to 244 approval of a \$398,000 bond issue for the new high school gym, the home making buildings, repairs to the other buildings; a program which has been carried out in detail in the past two years. At the same time, the voters approved a bond issue of \$47,000 by a vote of 607 to 209, for additional rooms at the Charles K. Price school.

On June 29th the Pacific Gas & Electric company held Open House in its new spacious home on Fourth street, a project which had been under way for several years.

Mrs. Ida May Bucke, mother of John and Reinhold Bucke, and prominent business woman in Orland for years, died on April 12th. E. A. Kirk, secretary-manager of the Glenn County Fair and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for years, as well as prominent in civic affairs, died at his home in Redding on May 11th. Mrs. Sarah King, resident here for forty years and prominent in Orland affairs, died on June 14th.

#### July A Tragic Month

July, 1953, was a month of tragedy for Glenn county and Orland.

On July 3rd, Nadine Yearian, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Yearian, was instantly killed in an auto crash at Chrome as she with other school mates were headed to the summer camp of Virgil Gleason for the week end holiday.

On July 17th, another of Orland's young citizens met a tragic death when Robin Russell, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Russell, fell to his death along with forty other naval student cadets in a plane crash near Milton, Fla. Robin, an Eagle Scout, graduate





of Orland High with the Class of 1951, was a student at Oregon State and was headed to the east coast to complete his ROTC summer training when the crash occurred. Robin was buried with military honors in Arlington National cemetery.

Earlier in the month, the tragic Rattlesnake Ridge brush fire near Alder Springs wiped out the lives of fifteen fire fighters, fourteen of whom were religious students at the New Tribes Mission at Fouts Springs, the other, a forest ranger. Caught by the sudden change of wind, the brush fire sped down on to the fifteen fire fighters as they paused for the evening meal, cutting off all avenues of escape and resulting in the most tragic forest fire in the State. Stanford Patton, Willows, arrested, admitted setting the fire in order to obtain work as a fire fighter or cook. He was sentenced to a prison term on the fire setting charge only.

Milton Miller loaned by the Extension Service to the Ladino Clover Seed Association, returned in August from a three month tour of the Middlewest and East, in an effort to obtain first hand information leading to the enlargement of the markets for Glenn county ladino clover seed. Dick Stark of Sacramento became an Orland business man that fall, purchasing the Ford agency from H. O. (Hap) Holt. Stark in two short years became an active civic leader in the community and brought to Orland a host of new ideas for development and improvement.

#### Twins Nearly Drown

A near tragedy was averted in late August when the Westaby twins, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Westaby, residents west of Orland, were saved from drowning in the irrigation ditch near their

home, by the alertness and coolness of Mrs. Lucille Stickler, a neighbor, who heard their cries for help.

Jesse Bequette who was introduced to Orland as fair manager, and then became a member of the Extension Service, was promoted to the Shasta County Extension Service in charge of beef cattle. Glen Eidman, agricultural teacher at Willows High, was named to fill the local vacancy; a job he has done with eminent satisfaction.

#### Death Toll Heavy

Death took five Orland folks that fall; Charles W. Lavey, local contractor and farmer here for forty-four years; Johnny Rollins, popular business man and active in civic work, suddenly of a heart attack; Mrs. Marie Sayler at the Shasta hospital, resident here except for her last few years since 1906, charter member of the Orland Women's Improvement Club, one of the founders of the Trinity Presbyterian church and leader in the formation of the city library; young Perry R. Madsen, Jr., killed in an auto crash near Paynes Creek; and Charles King, resident of Orland since 1903, and active in the business life of Orland for over forty years.

The 37th annual Glenn County Fair in September came near a record with a paid attendance of 23,882. Over 5,000 valley folks attended the ceremonies on October 17, 1953, marking the beginning of construction of the Red Bank Diversion Dam, which will feed the canals of the Sacramento Valley Canals Project.

#### Open House at Holvik's

Open House was held in November 1953 for the new plant of Holvik Bros., just east of town, where the three local boys, Joe, Pete and Carl centralized their milk distribution business in a



brand new building including a popular snack bar.

City mail delivery came to Orland in November, adding to the local postoffice force and giving a service sought for over thirty years.

The tentative plans for the establishment of a junior high school at the Charles K. Price school, initiating the six-three-three plan here, was discarded when the two rural elementary school districts, Plaza and Lake, refused to ratify the proposed change.

#### Start New School Buildings

On December 20, 1953, bids for the new high school gym the new home making department were awarded, the cost, \$284,362, coming from the bonds voted by the district the previous spring.

That winter and spring saw a surge of new home building in Orland, houses springing up almost overnight in every area, relieving the shortage of homes which had plagued the city since the close of the war. The housing unit was closed July 1, 1954.

Death took its toll of prominent Orland residents that winter and spring: Mrs. Eva Thompson, resident here her entire life and active in community affairs, in Livermore in December; **Vernon Squier**, popular Orland business man and civic leader since 1913, at Chico; and Mrs. G. E. (Mabel) Rawlins, resident and club leader in Orland for forty years, charter member of the Improvement Club, state chairman of gardens for the Federation for a number of years and prominent in all Orland activities, in Berkeley.

#### Fire House Dedicated

February 28, 1954 was a red letter day for Orland firemen and all Orland, when the new \$50,000

Orland Fire House, built by the city and the Orland Rural Fire District, was formally dedicated. Located on Fifth street south of Colusa, the new fire house was the realization of the dream of forty years. Back for the celebration were many of the charter members and former Chiefs of the department. Councilman Robert Franzen handed over the keys to the fully equipped new building to Fire Chief Dave Gleason, and oratory was spilled during the ceremonies by top brass of town, county and state.

#### Diversion Dam Out

Disaster threatened the acres of the Orland Project north of Stony Creek when the North Diversion Dam, built in 1911, undermined by winter flood waters, went out. Water for 4,500 acres was halted but quick work with county equipment threw up a temporary dam so that little damage was done. A permanent concrete-based dam was installed following the irrigation season.

An epidemic of hepatitis hit the north end of the county in 1954 and as a result all visits of the Blood Bank Mobile Unit to Orland were cancelled indefinitely. This inability to donate blood from the north end of the county, resulted in the serious deficit of Glenn county's deposit in the Sacramento Blood Bank for many months.

Rose Marie Simons, candidate of the Farm Group, won the honor of March of Dimes Sweetheart in 1954, the polio drive under the leadership of "Tiny" Polzin, totaling \$9,726.26, over fifty percent of the amount raised in the entire county.

#### Bihlers Hold Open House

It was on February 16th, that "Open House" was held for a popular Orland couple, Dr. C. C. and Hannah Bihler celebrating





their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home. They had been residents of Orland for thirty-two years.

Jacob Marts, resident of the northeast portion of Orland since 1909, died at his home on February 18, 1954 at the ripe old age of 83.

Will S. Green, father of irrigation in Glenn and Colusa counties, was honored on May 13, 1954, when a suitable marker was dedicated at the Headgates of the huge Central Canal, northeast of Orland by the Colusi Historical Society. The huge granite marker is located within a stone's throw of the spot where Will S. Green filed for water rights in 1863 for river water for the huge irrigation system of sprawling Colusa county he envisioned ninety years ago and which did not become a fact for nearly a half a century.

#### 119 Cars of Oranges

One of the best years in the up and down history of the orange industry was that of 1953, as reported at the May meeting of the Orland Orange Growers Association. During the year, 119 carloads of packed oranges were shipped from the 200 acres of orange groves of the member growers, bringing to the members a total of \$163,728, or better than \$488 an acre.

Completing the centralization of the administrative duties of the two Orland school districts, the new administrative office of the district, built in the main from the salvaged lumber from the surplus war building utilized for classrooms until permanent structures were built, was occupied in July, 1954.

#### Water District Formed

In August of fifty-four, the Orland-Artois Water District, a unit of the Sacramento River Canals

Project, was launched. At the hearing on September 7th, the district came into legal being, 17,869 acres, most of which lies south, southeast and southwest of Orland, starting at the south edge of the Orland Project with the inclusion of the Loam Ridge Project.

W. W. Allen, long a leader in the affairs of the water users of the Project, of which he was a director and president of the Board; prominent in the formation of the Orland Grange and in the affairs of the Orland Orange Growers Association, died at his home east of Orland, at the age of 79. He had been an active resident of the Land of Orland since 1920.

#### Dial Phones Come

Dial telephones came to Orland on August 29th after a year of preparation by the telephone company.

The 1954 Glenn County Fair added something new; the Youth Building to the east of the Main Exhibit Hall; a structure used during Fair Week for 4-H exhibits; but utilized the year around for youth meetings of all kinds and for dozens of meetings of other organizations.

Shirley Mudd ruled as Queen of the 1954 Fair which showed a gain of nine percent in attendance with a total of 25,682 paid admissions. During Fair Week, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Dobbins, prominent dairy cattle breeders and leaders in a dozen farm movements including 4-H and FFA groups, were honored by a number of dairymen and dairy organizations. The Dobbins have made their home in the Plaza district for over 35 years.

#### 13 Airmen Die

Tragedy struck again in Glenn county on October 6, 1954, a



tragedy almost as bad as the tragic Rattlesnake Ridge fire of the previous year. Thirteen members of the Air Corps fell to a flaming death when a huge army plane plunged to earth twenty miles southeast of Orland in a field, three miles east of Riz on Highway 99W.

Two deaths occurred that winter; Mrs. W. H. Macy in December, a resident here for over forty years; and A. A. Gulley, roadmaster of the Southern Pacific for this division since 1932.

Gas service piped from the wells in the Corning area came to Orland that winter, the first gas connection being made for the recently completed high school gym on January 3rd, after a winter of laying gas mains by the PG&E in every part of Orland.

#### Postal Receipts Up

Postal receipts for 1954 hit a new high, Postmaster Jack Heintz reported in January with a total of \$60,649, an increase of 17.2 percent over the previous year.

Barbara Matousek was the March of Dimes Sweetheart in 1954 with Helen Gee, Catherine Adragna and Myrna Spiegel as her attendants. The total collections that year was over \$9,000.

William Vereschagin, local farmer, was sent to Washington that spring to plead the need of a substantial appropriation to carry on the preliminary work on Black Butte Dam.

#### New Bank in Offering

The Land of Orland with but one banking institution since the depression years, found itself spotted for one of the branches of the new First Western Bank; the realization of which now appears only months away as the organization has purchased the site for the new branch at the corner of Third and Walker streets, and

promises the opening of the new branch early in 1956.

The Orland Rural Fire District added the newest type of fire fighting equipment in March with the purchase of a new fire truck at a cost of \$13,000.

C. A. Whitsett, Plaza farmer, member of the Board of Directors since its first fair in 1917 and president of the board for many years, resigned in March. Paul D. Johnson, longtime resident of the county but a newcomer to the Land of Orland, purchasing the Tod Ford place, southeast of Orland, was named by Governor Knight to fill the vacancy.

Three Orlanders died that late winter and spring; Mrs. Lando Starr from injuries in a car wreck three miles east of Willows; Art Askeland, 41, prominent in a dozen civic activities after a long illness, and young Jimmy Thomasson, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Thomassen, in a tractor accident on the Thomassen ranch northeast of Chico. Jimmy was prominent in high school activities especially football and was preparing to continue his studies at Chico State.

#### Farm Income Drops

Farm income for the previous year for the county showed a drop of six percent with a total of \$31,364,000, due to lower farm prices. Almonds, apricots and prunes in the county were hard hit by a killing frost on April 1st.

Close to 1400 youngsters enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 9, 1955, an event sponsored by the Orland Rotary Club. Incidentally this club also sponsors the annual Opening Night parade of the Glenn County Fair.

Lack of the usual late winter rains caused no end of worry and early reduced allotments of stored water for the acres of the Project; but the rains came in the





late spring, relieving almost entirely the threatened shortage.

### 316 Get Salk Vaccine

A milestone in the long battle against crippling polio was passed on April 28th when 316 first and second graders of the town and country schools were given their first shots of the Salk vaccine with no ill effects.

On May 9th, Lawrence Newberry, vice principal of the Campbell Union high school in the Santa Clara Valley, was selected as principal of the Orland Joint Union High school, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of B. F. Mason.

### New Route To Elk Creek

The proposed road from Orland to Elk Creek, in the news for nearly a half century, was given a boost when a new route on the east side of Stony Creek through the Papst property and crossing the creek at Julian Rocks, was proposed. Surveys have been ordered for the new road which has been a paper highway for half a century.

Work was begun and completed during the summer on the unique school for retarded children. Financed by the county and state on property on Second street leased from the local school district, the school takes care of all retarded children of Glenn county, and is one of the few of its kind in California's rural counties.

### Spectacular Fire

Orland flashed into metropolitan newspaper headlines but came near being a smoldering ruin when a \$100,000 fire on June 4, 1935, wiped out the Macy Lumber yard on North Fifth street, an adjoining dwelling and gutted the Orland Laundry at Fifth and Tehama streets. Orland firemen with the aid of fire fighters and fire

equipment from Corning, Hamilton City, Willows and a number of privately owned fire fighting trucks, battled for two hours before bringing the fire under control. The flames were whipped by a brisk north wind which threatened for a time to spread over the entire business area.

And so we come to the end of the chapter; over a century of history of the Land of Orland; a bit sketchy in its earlier formative years; a century which might well be divided into three eras: the pre-railroad era; the dry farming era; and the irrigated-lands era.

While the foundations of the Land of Orland were laid during the previous two eras, its development into the Land of Orland of today dates back to the beginning of this century when the first efforts for a certain water supply for the dry acres of the Land of Orland were made.

A half century of development, some of it amazingly rapid, some of it at snail's pace, with heartaches for many newcomers throughout the years.

What of the future? It is too bad that we cannot be here at the end of the next half century. We dare not venture a prophesy of that future; but we do know that the foundation of an enduring prosperity and advancement has been laid by the men and women who pioneered the Land of Orland during the past century.













